



Series I

Volume XVIII

1992

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ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ

ՀԱՆԴԵՍ

ARMENIAN

NUMISMATIC

JOURNAL

ՀԱՅ ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԻՍ

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EDITORIAL

Do we **need** (or to put it another way) do we **want** an Armenian Numismatic Society? It seems we can find time for other things and other places to invest our available funds but something that promotes Armenian numismatics is considered last by most of us.

One hundred years from now, our money will have been invested by ourselves and our heirs into things that do not reflect our Armenian background nor will they promote any part of the Armenian nation which is now again emerging.

We, as members of the Armenian Numismatic Society, are fortunate to have among us a scholar who donates his time and energy into almost all of the work that is being done currently for all our publications. Mr. Y. T. Nercessian, our secretary and editor is the scholar among us who has for many years written and published books and articles on Armenian coins, medals, and bank notes. He has done this unselfishly and deserves our support.

Support for our Society's expenses come mostly from our membership, individuals like you and me. Membership dues is not sufficient to cover organization's expenses. The following are some of the things and costs for the Society that have occurred during the past year:

1. Printing and postage costs have gone up.
2. Quality and volume of our journal has improved dramatically.
3. We have purchased a new laser printer for the computer that is printing these publications. The laser printer and software cost about \$3000.

Asking for money for the Society is difficult especially after the Christmas season. But the Armenian Numismatic Society has a special mission to perform; research and publication of Armenian numismatic literature. We need your financial help for this worthy cause.

Could we **count** on your support?

Sincerely,



Arthur Jernukian,
President

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL is the quarterly publication of Armenian Numismatic Society, an educational, non-profit organization. Editor, Y. T. Nercessian, 8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, California 90660-1920, U. S. A. Associate Editor, W. Gewenian, Corresponding Editors, Levon A. Saryan (Greenfield, WI) and Henry Sarkissian (Yerevan). Non-member subscriptions (individuals and institutions) \$10.00 per year. Back issues available.

LETTERS

[Concerning the format of our Journal] I prefer 8 1/2 "x11" format, with 12-20 pages.
Levon A. Saryan
Greenfield, WI

Editor's Comments: In our case, we opted the present format because it is economical. 6"x9" format would be desirable for the following reasons:

1. To the best of my knowledge, all scholarly periodicals are adapting to the commercially printed 6"x9" format.
2. Oversize publications are associated with storage problem in most libraries. In the UCLA Research Library, they have shelves for books with a standard height. Oversized books have a separate location and not in the regular numbering sequence (although not out of sequence among oversized book stacks).
3. Spacing between two 6" lines needs to be much wider than those for 4.5" lines. Otherwise it will not be as easy to read.
4. Commercial book manufacturing houses print text or plates on large paper and fold them to form the pages. Each printed sheet, folded to form a section of a book, is called a "signature." Each signature consists of 32 pages. The customer receives the most for his money if he can fill 32 pages. Commercially the cost of printing 32 pages at 6"x9" is less expensive than printing a comparable amount of material on 24 pages when each page is 8 1/2 "x11".

...Have you ever thought of changing the Armenian Numismatic Society into Armenian Numismatic and Philatelic Society? It would increase our number of members and provide more material for our journal. It will also bring to attention collections and knowledge that might be hidden or unknown....

Paul Bedoukian
Wilton, CT

Editor's Comments: There is a philatelic society in Armenia. I suppose a philatelic society can be organized in the diaspora also. But some one else should organize it and not the editor of Armenian Numismatic Society. If I were to serve two organizations, I could not do either one justice. It would not have been possible to publish any books as we have done during the past decade. However, no one has ever submitted an article on stamps to have it turned away. If you recall, the name of our organization was Armenian Numismatic and Artifact Society. Yet no work was done on Art. Therefore, by default it became a numismatic society and everyone decided to have a name reflecting that activity, numismatics.

...Ինձ յօտ միտք է առաջացել ստեղծել հերմետաստեսային հաղորդում մուհրուած հայրիկիս աշխատանքային գործունեութեան: ...Լևոն Զուքազիզեանը իր օգնական ձեռքը մեկնեց և Հայաստանի հերմետաստեսութեամբ ներկայացրեց իս. Ա. Մուշեղեանի ուղին: Հաղորդումը տեսագրուեց ժապաւենի վրայ և այն պահում է Մուշեղեանի յօտ սերունդների համար:

Եթէ լինէ հնարարութիւն, ապա Մուշեղեանը փափաք ունի ուղարկել Զեզ այդ տեսաժապաւենը յիշատակ իրենից:

Ինչ վերաբերում է նրա առողջական վիճակին, ապա շատ տկար է, չնայած դրան շարունակում է գործել առանց լսելու բժիշկների արգելքներին...

Անահիտ Մուշեղեան
Երևան

I am very pleased with the quality of production from your new laser printer. Acquiring it was a good move.

George Shirinian
Mississauga, ON

A HOARD OF LEVON III TAKVORINS

By Y. T. Nercessian

Historical Background

Levon III, king of Cilician Armenia (1301-1307), took the helm of the Armenian government at a time of considerable internal and external turmoil. Levon was the son of Prince Toros, one of the brothers of King Hetoum II (1289-1305), and the grandson of King Levon II (1270-1289). Following the death of Levon II, the royal throne was assumed by Hetoum II, whose temperament and interest leaned towards the contemplative life of the monastery rather than leadership of the kingdom. After a series of internecine struggles, Levon was appointed co-ruler in 1301.¹ Levon was accepted as king by the Armenians and called "king" in a contemporary manuscript dated 1302 although his official coronation did not take place until 1306.² Both Hetoum and Levon were treacherously murdered by their Mongol allies on November 17, 1307. P. Z. Bedoukian writes "perhaps" this crime was committed at the instigation of the Armenian nationalists who resented the rapprochement between Hetoum II, his nephew Levon III, and the Catholic church.³ Hetoum's fourth brother, Oshin, rushed to Anazarpus and drove out the Mongol general and his troops. Upon Oshin's complaint, the Great Khan had the Mongol general decapitated.

The coinage of Levon III exists in three denominations;⁴ debased silver takvorins,⁵ silver half trams,⁶ and two types of copper coins (king seated on a bench and king seated in oriental fashion) known as kardez.⁷ The copper coins were used primarily for domestic transactions; the takvorin was the basic currency for international trade as well as domestic circulation. Since Levon's coins are numerous, it is logical to assume that they were issued over a period of several years and not just the one and one half years from his coronation to death.

The economic decline of Armenia is clearly reflected in Levon III's coinage. If one compares the silver coins of Levon III with those of Levon I, Hetoum I, and Levon II, the extent of the decline becomes readily apparent.⁸ Levon I issued seven types of silver coins; they were the pride and glory of Armenia. Hetoum I issued six types of silver coins, which like those of Levon I all had a high and consistent silver fineness. Levon II struck attractive new trams, following which the obverse design of Armenian silver coinage remained essentially frozen (with a few exceptions, however). The takvorins of Levon III (Obv.: equestrian, Rev.: lion to right) froze both the obverse and reverse designs of the silver coinage of his successors (Oshin, Levon IV, Guy, Gosdantin III, Levon the Usurper, and Gosdantin IV) for the next 70 years to the end of the kingdom. If we disregard the few very rare half trams which have reached us, basically, Levon III issued only takvorin type silver coin for international commerce. He was the first king whose coins were debased even before the beginning of his official reign, and the silver fineness reduced to nearly fifty percent. Equally important, the styling and quality of workmanship declined even though it is much superior to those of later kings.

¹ P. Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* [hereafter CCA] (New York, 1962; Armenian edition, Vienna, 1963; revised edition, Danbury, Connecticut, 1979), pp. 14-15; J. de Morgan, *The History of the Armenian People* (Boston, 1965), pp. 245-246; V. M. Kurkjian, *A History of Armenia* (New York, 1964), pp. 253-254.

² V. A. Hakobian, *Minor Chronicles of the Thirteenth to Eighteenth Century* (Yerevan, 1956), Vol. II, pp. 193-194 (in Armenian).

³ P. Z. Bedoukian, CCA, pp. 91-92.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 336-347, Nos. 1734-1806.

⁶ K. J. Basmdjian, *Numismatique Générale de l'Arménie* (Venice, 1936), p. 168 (in Armenian); J. Guevrekian, "A Half Tram of Levon III," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Series I, Vol. XV (1989), pp. 73-78.

⁷ P. Z. Bedoukian, CCA, pp. 347-353, Nos. 1807-1839; Fr. Au. Sekoulian, *Numismatic Studies: Hetoum II, Levon III, and Oshin* (Vienna, 1982), pp. 37-74 (in Armenian).

⁸ P. Z. Bedoukian, CCA, pp. 144-217, Nos. 123-694; 235-273, Nos. 842-1273; 290-304, Nos. 1429-1521.

Takvorin (silver coin) description:

Obv.: The king is on horseback to right, holding the reins with his left hand, and with his right, a cross or royal staff which extends over his shoulder. The obverse circular Armenian inscription reads,
 ԼԵՎՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՌՈՐ ԼԱՅՈՑ (Levon king of the Armenians).
 Sometimes the Armenian letters Ռ and Ր are combined into a ligatured letter Ր՝.

Rev.: The Armenian lion is walking to right and facing right with a cross behind him. The reverse circular Armenian inscription reads,
 ԺԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ Է (struck in the city of Sis).

Although the coins of Levon III are not rare, only one takvorin hoard (of 64 coins) belonging to this king has been reported to date.⁹ Not a single in-depth study of any size Levon III silver hoard has been published. The significance and value of the hoard reported below to Armenian numismatics is thus readily apparent.

Comments on the Hoard

The importance of hoards in numismatic research cannot be overemphasized. Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian, in his 1987 booklet entitled *Armenian Coin Hoards*, expresses the hope that his treatise "will encourage numismatists to preserve records of other hoards before they are dispersed."¹⁰ Earlier, in 1972, Bedoukian composed an important study of a late Cilician Armenian hoard in which he expounds in a detailed fashion on the importance of hoard records in numismatic study.¹¹ Both of these studies left a lasting impression on this writer, as well as a moral obligation to record any hoard on paper before it was dispersed to various collectors.¹²

Collecting and recording hoard evidence requires detailed cataloguing including the preparation of obverse-reverse design drawings and inscribing the obverse-reverse legends, all of which is tedious and time consuming work. If, however, such hoard studies can eventually lead to a solution of the chronological problem of Armenian coins, the result will be definitely worth the effort. The student needs to keep in mind that with the exception of the bilingual silver coins of Hetoum I, Armenian coins do not bear any kind of date.

In April of 1990, the author purchased a parcel of Armenian silver coins which included 401 trams of Levon I, 32 trams of Levon II, and 109 takvorins of Levon III. Information pertaining to hoard provenance, circumstances of unearthing, etc. was not available. The wholesaler who sold the entire parcel, claims that the Levon III portion of the parcel was an entire hoard. However, he does not deny that it is very hard to trust the people who unearthed the coins and sold them to him. An examination of the parcel revealed that it contained more than one hoard, possibly as many as four hoards plus some intruders. For this reason, the coins of various kings have been catalogued separately for publication.

The hoard under study consists of 109 pieces, most of which grade in the range of F+ (fine plus) to VF+ (very fine plus). A hoard of this size should have included some coins grading EF (extremely fine) or better. Even those coins of VF+ grade did not include very desirable types coveted by advanced collectors. It is thus apparent that the hoard has been picked over for commercial purposes with rare types of better grade having been removed before it reached this writer. It is in fact very rare for a hoard to reach the student intact without having first been picked

⁹ P. Z. Bedoukian, *Armenian Coin Hoards* (Los Angeles, 1987), p. 51, No. 41.

¹⁰ *ibid.*, p. 7.

¹¹ P. Z. Bedoukian, "An Important Hoard of Gosdantin III, Levon the Usurper, and Gosdantin IV of Cilician Armenia," *Haigazian Armenological Review*, Vol. III (1972), pp. 151-183 (in Armenian); also in *Selected Numismatic Studies* ([henceforth SNS]) Los Angeles, 1981, pp. 452-483.

¹² The author operates a mail order Armenian coin business.


over for the most desirable pieces, but in spite of this the hoard does contain much information of value to collectors, students, and posterity.

Cataloguing the Hoard


Dr. Bedoukian's classification scheme,¹³ according to completeness of legend, was followed to arrange the coins of Levon III in Table I. The first column in the catalogue gives the assigned specimen number. The second column references the corpus number of Bedoukian's *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*. The obverse Armenian legend is at the top of the block of coins, starting with specimen number. The reverse Armenian inscription is printed in the third column. The fourth and fifth columns indicate the obverse style and reverse design patterns, respectively (see Figures 1 and 2.). Column six is the weight of the coin in grams. The columns seven and eight give the obverse-reverse die varieties. Note that odd numbers have been assigned to the obverse dies and even numbers to the reverse dies. An asterisk in the last column indicates the specimens illustrated in the plate.

Table II cross-references the obverse style and reverse design patterns to the plates. Photographs of selected coins displaying those patterns are illustrated in the plates.


Table I. Levon III takvorin catalogue

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
001	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A1	2.62	01	02 *
002	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A13	2.57	01	04
003	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A13	2.53	01	04 *
004	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A13	2.51	01	04
005	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A6	2.49	01	06
006	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A6	2.63	01	06 *
007	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A6	2.42	01	06
008	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1c	A1	2.40	03	08
009	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1c	A10	2.57	03	10 *
010	1736V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	B1	1.97	03	12 *
011	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A2	2.55	05	14
012	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A2	2.50	07	14 *
013	1736V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A3	2.62	07	16
014	1736V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A3	2.49	07	16 *
015	1739	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A1	2.55	07	18
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
016	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	2a	A1	2.69	09	20
017	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	2a	A6	2.64	09	22
018	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	2a	A10	2.43	09	24 *
019	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	3b	B2	2.53	11	26 *
020	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	3b	B2	2.46	11	26
021	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	3b	B2	2.43	11	26
022	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	3b	A10	2.42	11	24
023	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2c	A2	2.40	13	14


¹³ P. Z. Bedoukian, *CCA*, pp. 336-347, Nos. 1734-1806. The hoard includes some coins which are not classified in the Bedoukian corpus. Where possible, the closest Bedoukian number has been chosen and the letter "V" is attached to it. Where impossible, a new Bedoukian number has been created.

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
024	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.56	15 14	*
025	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.63	15 14	
026	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.53	15 14	
027	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.42	15 14	
028	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.40	15 14	
029	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.38	15 14	
030	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.42	15 14	
031	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2a	A4	2.40	09 28	*
032	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ԻՍ	2c	A7	2.41	13 26	
033	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.42	13 30	
034	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.51	13 30	
035	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.46	13 30	
036	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A11	2.54	17 32	
037	1744	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A7	2.54	15 34	
038	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3b	A2	2.63	15 36	
039	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	2b	A8	2.45	19 38	*
040	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	2c	A11	2.41	13 40	*
041	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	2c	A11	2.45	13 40	
042	1745V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Լ	2c	A11	2.37	13 42	
+ԼԵԻՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ ¹⁴							
043	1747a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4d	B6	2.40	23 46	*
044	1747a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4d	B3	2.71	23 48	
045	1749V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	4e	B7	2.31	21 44	*
+ԼԵԻՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
046	1758	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A7	2.47	25 50	
047	1758a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.36	27 52	
048	1759a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.41	29 54	
049	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4a	B5	2.63	31 56	*
050	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4a	B3	2.61	31 58	
051	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4b	B3	2.34	33 48	
052	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4b	B3	2.46	33 48	
053	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4b	B3	2.07	33 60	
054	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4a	B3	2.44	31 62	
055	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4b	B3	1.90	33 48	*
056	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4b	B3	1.73	33 48	
057	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4a	B3	1.77	31 48	
058	1763V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4a	B4	2.78	31 62	*
059	1763V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4a	B6	2.51	31 64	*
060	1766V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	7a	A5	2.47	35 66	*
+ԼԵԻՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
061	1766V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	7a	A5	2.43	35 66	
062	1768	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4c	B3	2.03	37 48	
+ԼԵԻՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
063	1769V	+ԾԻՆԵԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔ Ի ՍԻՍ	4f	B7	2.15	39 68	*
064	1772a	+ԾԻՆԵԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	5a	B7	2.22	41 70	*

¹⁴ Obv.: the king is holding two staffs, small δ, no field marks.

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
065	1774V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	6a	A5	2.35	43	66 *
066	1775a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔ Ս	6c	C1	2.47	45	72
067	1775a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔ Ս	6c	C1	2.59	45	72 *
068	1775a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔ Ս	6c	C1	2.55	45	72
069	1775b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔ Ս	5b	C2	2.48	47	74 *
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ՝							
070	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A2	2.54	49	14
071	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A2	2.51	49	14
072	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A2	2.50	49	14
073	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A2	2.49	49	14
074	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A2	2.43	49	14
075	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.51	51	76
076	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A12	2.56	51	76
077	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A12	2.56	51	76
078	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A12	2.47	51	76
079	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A12	2.37	51	76
080	1778aV	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A9	2.50	51	78 *
081	1779	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1c	A7	2.50	51	80
082	1779	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1c	A9	2.43	51	82
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ							
083	1780V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻ	1b	D1	2.41	53	84
084	1789V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻ	6b	D1	2.51	55	84 *
085	1789V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	6b	A12	2.63	57	86
086	1789V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	6b	A5	2.56	57	86
087	1789V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	6b	A5	2.59	59	86
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ							
088	1790b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ԾՍ ¹⁵	1b	D1	2.26	61	88 *
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ՝							
089	1791V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.49	63	90
090	1791V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.47	63	90
091	1791V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.51	63	90
092	1791V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.50	63	90
093	1793V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.47	63	92
094	1793V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A7	2.57	63	94
095	1794V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A5	2.50	65	86
096	1794V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A5	2.50	65	86
097	1794V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.48	63	96
098	1794V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.42	67	96
099	1795V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1c	A7	2.46	69	98
100	1795V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1c	A7	2.54	69	98 *
101	1795V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի	1c	A2	2.68	63	100
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ՝							
102	1796V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4c	B3	2.65	71	48

¹⁵ Ligatured նե and ՍԻ.

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
103	1796aV	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4c	B3	2.31	71 92	*
ԿԵԽԻՆ ԹԱԳԱՍԻՄ ՀԱՅ							
104	1796b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՄԻՍ	3a	D1	2.51	65 102	
105	1800	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	3a	A5	2.49	65 104	*
ԿԵԽԻՆ ԹԱԳԱՍԻՄ ՀԱՅ							
106	1800a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՄԻՍ	3a	B7	2.45	67 106	
107	1800b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	3a	B3	2.41	67 108	
108	1800b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	3a	B3	2.41	67 108	
109	1800b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	3a	B3	2.36	67 108	

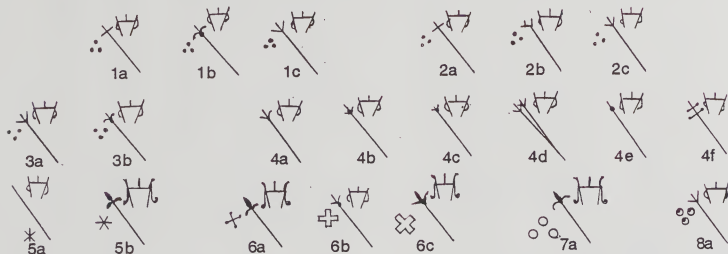


Fig. 1. Levon III takvorin obverse style patterns

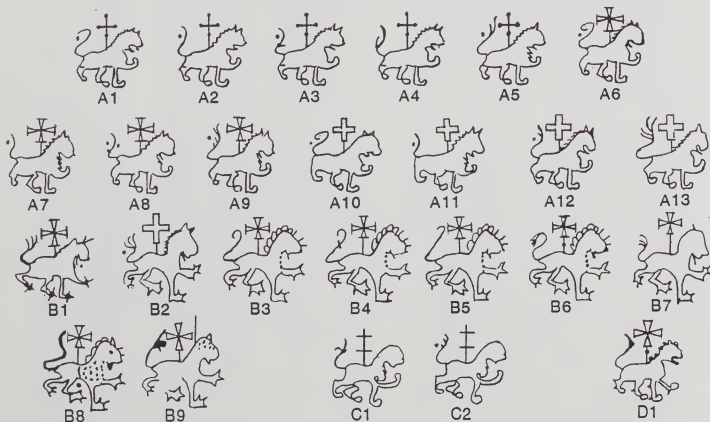


Fig. 2. Levon III takvorin reverse design patterns

Table II. Levon III coin design-plate cross reference

1a	12	6a	65	A12	91
1b	1, 88	6b	84	A13	3
1c	10	6c	67	B1	10
2a	18	7a	60	B2	19
2b	39	8a	332	B3	103
2c	40	A1	1	B4	58
3a	105	A2	12	B5	49
3b	24	A3	14	B6	43
4a	59	A4	31	B7	45
4b	55	A5	60,105	B8	332
4c	103	A6	6	B9	333
4d	43	A7	100	C1	67
4e	45	A8	39	C2	69
4f	63	A9	80	D1	84
5a	64	A10	9, 18		
5b	69	A11	40		

Stylistic Grouping of Levon III Takvorins

Levon III takvorins of this hoard do not display the type of stylistic variation one might expect to see. On Levon III takvorins, the field marks, compared to the royal staff, dominate the field. A cataloguer feels quite comfortable using the field marks as the central element—following to the obverse/reverse inscriptions—to classify his coins since the royal staff does not have a prominent display to command the field. Based on the field marks eight variations have been created (see Fig. 1) to cover the coins in this article and the accompanying article by Saryan and Hajinian. In addition to field marks, the staff variants also are used to subdivide the eight varieties. In obverse variety 1, the three dots have pyramid shape (∴). In variety 2, the three dots rotate almost 90° clockwise (∴). In variety 3, the three dots are upside down (∴). In variety 4, there are no dots as field marks. In variety 5, 6, 7, stars, crosses, circles, respectively, are used as field marks. Variety 8, catalogued by Saryan and Hajinian, shows field marks resembling three small circles with dots in them (⊙⊙⊙).

The reverse style is based on different cross patterns, various lion positions, and type of lion's feet (see Fig. 2). In variety A, the cross has one horizontal arm, lion's legs do not have claws (resembling a closed fist), and lion's front forearm is raised up. Additionally, the styling of the cross, shape of lion's tail, and hair of lion's mare helps subdivide variety A. In variety B, similar to variety A, the cross has one horizontal arm, the lion is walking, forearm is raised up, and the lion's legs have very distinct claws. The lion's mare on type B3 to B6 has a very conspicuous looking hair and ornate cross. The shape of the tail (curled, bushy, long, etc.) created additional subdivisions. In variety C, the lion is walking to right, forearm is raised up, no claws, but the cross has two horizontal arms. In variety D, the lion is standing on four legs, behind him is an ornate cross with one arm, hair of lion's mare is bunched, and there are no claws on the legs.

Obverse-reverse varieties do not have equal distribution of coins. Nearly 73 percent of the coins have three dots for field marks or as Dr. Bedoukian indicates, they are the early issues of Levon's takvorins. Almost 93 percent of the coins have type A and B reverse, that is, the lion is walking to right, front foreleg is raised up, and the cross has one horizontal arm. This seems to be the case for most of the 222 takvorins catalogued in Dr. Bedoukian's corpus.¹⁶

¹⁶ P. Z. Bedoukian, *CCA*, p. 119, English editions; p. 124g, Armenian edition.

Table III. Obverse versus reverse design

Obv	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A	55	8	5			4	2		74
B	1		7	18	1				27
C					1	3			4
D	2		1			1			4
Total	58	8	13	18	2	8	2		109

Table III summarizes the obverse styles and reverse designs. Half of the coins (55) are classified under types 1 and A, that is, on the obverse there are three dots as field marks; on the reverse, the lion is walking to right and there are claws on lion's legs. The second largest group would be types 4 and B, that is, on the obverse, there are no field marks; on the reverse, the lion is walking to right and there are claws on lion's legs. According to majority, the complete sequence would be 1/A, 4/B, 2/A, 3/B, 3/A, 6/A, 6/C, 1/D, 2/A, etc.

Chart I gives the obverse style variety percentage distribution (1, 42.20%; 2, 11.93%; 3, 18.35%; 4, 16.51%; 5, 1.84%; 6, 7.34%; 7, 1.83%). Chart II gives the reverse design pattern variety percentage distribution (A, 67.89%; B, 24.77%; C, 3.67%; D, 3.67%). Both charts distinctly demonstrate that bulk of the coins have type 1 obverse and type A reverse.

The average weight of Levon III takvorins, based on table I metrological data, is 2.45 grams. If we consider less than 2.31 grams as low and above 2.60 grams as high limits of average weight (2.45 \pm 0.15 grams), we can draw a few conclusions: 1. The bulk of the low weight coins (2/3) fall in obverse type 4 and reverse type B, that is, on the obverse there are no field marks and on the reverse the lion's legs have claws; 2. Most of the average weight coins are classified in obverse types 1 to 3 (69/109) and reverse types A to B (79/109), that is, on the obverse there are three dots as field marks and on the reverse the lion is walking to right, and has a cross with one arm; 3. All heavy weight coins (14/109) are classified under obverse types 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 and reverse types A and B. In Dr. Bedoukian's corpus the average weight for Levon III takvorins is 2.30 grams.¹⁷ Metrological data also confirms that most of the coins were minted during the early period of Levon's reign. The weight distribution of Levon III takvorins, based on obverse-reverse design, are tabulated in tables IV and V, respectively.

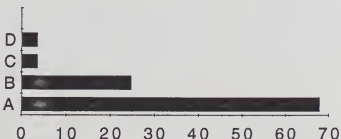
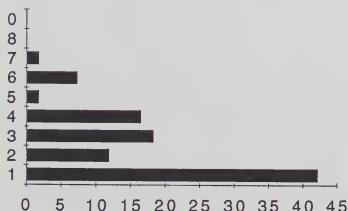


Chart I. Obverse design percentage distribution

Chart II. Reverse design percentage distribution

¹⁷ P. Z. Bedoukian, *CCA*, p. 111, English editions; p. 123, Armenian edition.

Table IV. Weight distribution based on obverse design

Cross	Under 1.90	1.91 2.00	2.01 2.10	2.11 2.20	2.21 2.30	2.31 2.40	2.41 2.50	2.51 2.60	2.61 2.70	2.71 2.80	Total
1		1			1	3	23	14	4		46
2						3	7	1	2		13
3						3	9	6	2		20
4	3		2	1		4	2	1	3	2	18
5					1		1				2
6						1	1	5	1		8
7							2				2
8											
Total	3	1	2	1	2	14	45	27	12	2	109

Table V. Weight distribution based on reverse cross

Cross	Under 1.90	1.91 2.00	2.01 2.10	2.11 2.20	2.21 2.30	2.31 2.40	2.41 2.50	2.51 2.60	2.61 2.70	2.71 2.80	Total
A						9	35	21	9		74
B	3	1	2	1	1	5	7	2	3	2	27
C							2	2			4
D					1		1	2			4
Total	3	1	2	1	2	14	45	27	12	2	109

Die Study

The 109 takvorins catalogued in this paper are represented by 36 obverse and 54 reverse die varieties. Sometimes because of obverse style or reverse design pattern identical codes, the reader might conclude that two or several coins are from an identical die. However, occasionally the curvature or branching of the lion's tail, length of a cross arm, or some iconographic peculiarity may rule against it. They may be similar to each other but not necessarily from an identical die. Those coins which have identical dies are so indicated by their die numbers.

A study of the die linkage reveals that the hoard was much larger than 109 pieces at the beginning. The coins were struck with following obverse and reverse dies mating on a one-to-one basis: 17-32, 19-38, 23-46, 25-50, 27-52, 29-54, 39-68, 41-70, 45-72, 47-74, 61-88.

The following obverse dies mate with the following reverse dies: 1-2, 4, 6; 3-8, 10, 12; 9-20, 22, 24, 28; 51-76, 78, 80, 82; 63-90, 92, 94, 96, 100.

The following reverse dies mate with the following obverse dies: 66-35, 43; 84-53, 55; 86-57, 59, 65. Normally, due to the techniques of hammering Armenian coins in Cilicia, the coiners in the mint utilized more reverse than obverse dies. When one notices that for a group of coins in a "hoard" the ratio of reverse dies to obverse dies is 1.5 (54/36) instead of 10, 5, or at least 2, the student will have no alternative but conclude that the coins under study represent only a partial hoard.¹⁸

¹⁸ P. Z. Bedoukian, "The Art of Coinage in Cilician Armenia," SNS, pp. 371-379 (in Armenian).

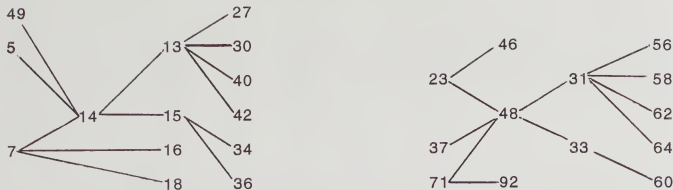


Fig. 3. Obverse-reverse die linkage


Figure 3 demonstrates two sets of die links. In a complete hoard one would expect more similar die links and perhaps even a more orderly die sequence.


SUPPLEMENT

The above article was completed and just about ready to go to press, when in June 1991, the author purchased a small parcel of Levon III takvorins (62 coins) from another dealer. The coins have been picked over, in fact so good that, except for three coins, all of them have three dots as field mark on the obverse and type "A" lion on the reverse. Most of the coins would grade fine. The average weight is 2.50 grams. It would be only a speculation if this parcel was a part of the above described hoard or a separate small hoard. Since numismatic literature on Levon III takvorin hoard is scarce, it was considered worthy to record it for posterity without additional comments. The die numbers assigned here are independent from the preceding part of this article.

Table VI. Levon III takvorin catalogue, supplement

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend	♂	†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
111	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A10	2.51	01	02
112	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A2	2.49	03	04
113	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A2	2.43	05	06
114	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.54	07	08
115	1737	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԼ	1b	A5	2.51	09	10
116	1739	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1a	A2	2.42	03	12
117	1739	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1b	A11	2.57	11	14
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
118	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	3b	A10	2.53	13	16
119	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.60	15	06
120	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2c	A11	2.58	17	18
121	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.57	19	20
122	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԼ	2c	A11	2.39	19	22
123	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.64	19	20

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
124	1743	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.54	19	20
125	1743	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.53	19	20
126	1743	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A11	2.49	21	24
127	1743	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A2	2.47	23	26
128	1744	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A9	2.50	23	28
129	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2b	A8	2.29	25	30
130	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A11	2.44	21	32
131	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A2	2.47	13	12
132	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A2	2.48	13	12
133	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A2	2.48	23	34
134	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A7	2.36	23	36
135	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A8	2.63	23	30
136	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A8	2.57	23	30
137	1745	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A8	2.61	23	30
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
138	1758	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1a	A11	2.56	25	32
139	1758	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.64	27	34
140	1758	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.46	29	36
141	1759	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A11	2.43	27	38
142	1759a	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.61	29	40
143	1759a	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.87	29	42
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
144	1766	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	7a	A5	2.46	31	44
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ՝							
145	1777a	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A9	2.44	33	46
146	1778	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A2	2.48	33	48
147	1778	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A11	2.58	37	24
148	1778	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A12	2.61	33	50
149	1778	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A12	2.57	33	50
150	1779	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A2	2.37	33	52
151	1779	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.67	39	52
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ							
152	1782	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A2	2.30	41	54
153	1782	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A2	2.55	41	54
154	1783	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A2	2.46	41	48
155	1783	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A5	2.56	43	44
156	1783	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A9	2.56	41	46
157	1783	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A11	2.42	41	24
158	1783	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A2	2.56	45	48
159	1783	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A2	2.63	45	48
160	1785	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A1	2.54	41	56
161	1785	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.26	41	32
162	1785	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.38	45	58
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ՝							
163	1791	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A12	2.61	47	60
164	1793	+ԹԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	C2	2.46	49	62

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	Pl
165	1793	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1c	A11	2.47	47	18
166	1794	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A9	2.39	47	46
167	1795	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1c	A7	2.46	47	64
168	1795	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1c	A7	2.46	47	64

ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՆՈՐ ՀԱՅ

169	1797	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	3a	B3	2.36	49	66
170	1797	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	3a	C2	2.47	51	68
171	1798	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A11	2.58	53	38
172	1798	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	2a	A7	2.51	55	70

ԼԵՒՈՆ Գ-Ի ԹԱԳՈՒՈՐԻՆՆԵՐՈՒ ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏՑ ՄԸ

[Ամփոփում]

Իր Հայկական դրամագիտեր գրքովին մեջ, Դոկտ. Ջարեմ Պտուկեան կը յուսայ, թէ իր ուսումնասիրութիւնը պիտի քաջալերէ դրամագէտներուն, որ տեղեկագրեն դրամական գանձերը ցիրուցան չեղած:

Թէև Լևոն Գ-ի դրամները շատ հագուագիտ չեն, սակայն միայն մի դրամագիտ (64 թագուորին) տեղեկագրուած է: Ծարք մէկ հատ լուրջ ուսումնասիրութիւն մը չէ հրատարակուած այս երիտասարդ գահակալի արծաթ դրամներու յայտնաբերուած գանձի մը վրայ:

Դրամագիտներու մասին տեղեկագրութիւն հաւաքել, նկարագրել, պատկերագրութեանց գծագրութիւնները պատրաստել ու մանրամասն դասաւորել կը պահանջէ հոգնեցուցիչ ու երկարաշունչ աշխատանք: Սակայն եթէ դրամագիտներու ուսումնասիրութիւնը կարողանայ սատարել հայկական դրամներու ժամանակագրութեան վերաբերեալ խնդիրները լուծելու, անկասկած արդիւնքը ջատագովելի է եւ որեւէ մի քանք պէտք չէ խնայուի այս ուղղութեամբ:

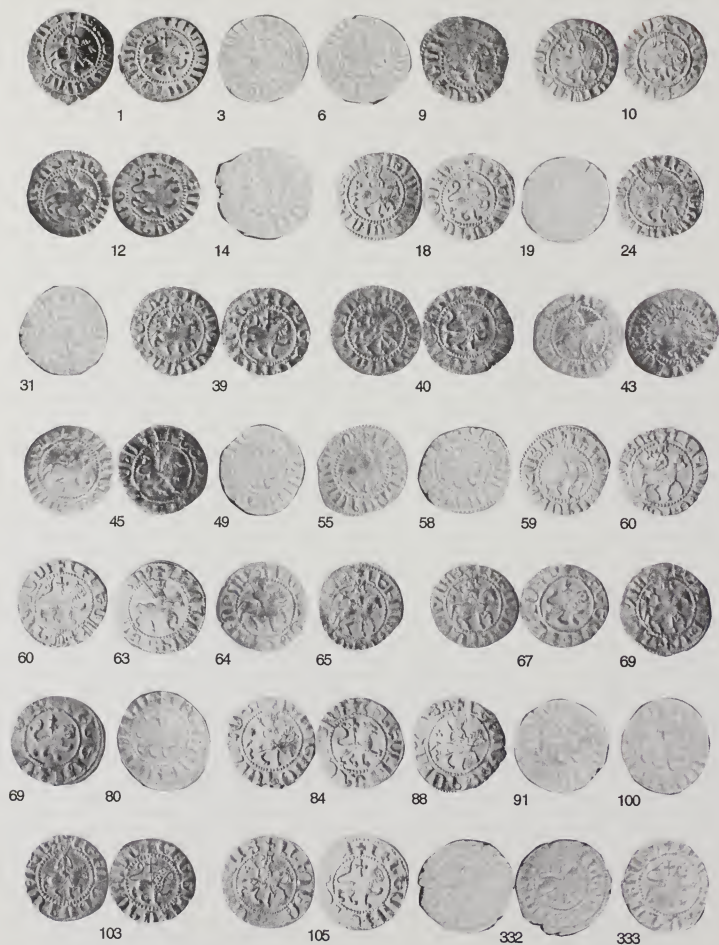
Հեղինակը 1990-ի Ապրիլ ամսուան մէջ գնեց ծրար մը արծաթեայ դրամներ, որ բաղկացած էր 401 կտոր Լևոն Ա-ի հասարակ դրամէն, 32 կտոր Լևոն Բ-ի դրամէն եւ 109 կտոր Լևոն Գ-ի թագուորինէն: Ըստ ծախող վաճառականին՝ Լևոն Գ-ի բաժինը լիւի դրամագիտ մըն էր: Ապագայ քննութիւնները փաստեցին, թէ գանձին ընտրանքի գեղատիպ կտորները ջուրած ու վերցուած են:

Դրամագիտը դասաւորուեցաւ ըստ Պտուկեանի *Կիլիկեան Հայաստանի դրամները* կոթողային բանասիրութեան ուղղութեան, ուր դասաւորուած են Լևոն Գ-ի 222 կտոր թագուորին: Գծագրութիւնները պատրաստուեցան ակողմի ու բեկողմի պատկերաստիպերուն ուսումնասիրութեան համար (տես Նկար թիւ 1 եւ 2):

Ըստ դրամագիտի քննութեան եւ բաղդատութեան Պտուկեանի վերոյիշեալ գրքին թագուորիններուն հետ, կարելի եղաւ եզրակացնել, թէ դրամագիտը կը պատկանի Լևոն Գ-ի գահակալութեան սկզբնական շրջանին: Գանձի դրամներու միջին ծանրութիւնն է 2.45 գրամ, մինչդեռ Պտուկեանի գրքին մէջի 222 թագուորինի միջին կշիռն է 2.30 գրամ: Կնիքներու լծորդումն ալ կը փաստէ, թէ իսկական դրամագիտը եղած է աւելի մեծ քան թէ 109 կտոր դրամ:

Այս յօդուածը պատրաստ եր տպարան երթալու, երբ հեղինակը գնեց Լևոն Գ-ի թագուորիններու փոքր գանձ մը (62 դրամ): Գանձի յաւորակ դրամները նախապէս ընտրուած եւ ծախուած են: Նկատի առնելով որ Լևոն Գ-ի դրամագիտներու մասին գրուած յօդուածները սակաւաթիւ են, լաւագոյնս համարուեցաւ այս փոքր գանձը ներկայացնել առանց յաւելեալ մեկնաբանութեան:

Ե. Թ. ՆԵՐՍԷՍԵԱՆ



Y. T. Nercessian / L. A. Saryan and Ch. A. Hajinian, Levon III Takvorin

ANOTHER HOARD OF LEVON III TAKVORINS

By Levon A Saryan, Ph.D. and Charles A. Hajinian, D.D.S.

Background

When Levon III of the Armenian kingdom of Cilicia assumed the royal throne in 1301, the once powerful realm had already fallen considerably from its enviable position of size, strength, and importance a century before.¹ Levon became king at a time of debilitating internal strife and severe external pressure. The kingdom had just passed through a series of fratricidal struggles for control of the throne, and was simultaneously under continuous attack by Mameluke and Turkoman forces, which in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries were making almost annual destructive raids into Armenian territory. In spite of these considerable obstacles, Levon was able to consolidate his rule and made a creditable effort to restore the strength of his kingdom.

By any standard, Levon's uncle and predecessor Hetoum II had been a weak ruler, at a time when at the very least a resolute and energetic defense of the country was required to counter the Mameluke threat.² The silver coinage of Levon III may be usefully considered in this context. For the twelve year period prior to Levon's accession to the throne, the Armenian mint virtually suspended coinage in silver. Hetoum II (1289-1301) struck only a few extremely rare billon deniers (ca 0.6 gram), and the two usurpers Smpad (1296-1298) and Gosdantin I (1298-1299) during their brief reigns managed to issue only a very few extremely rare silver trams. If we judge from the scarcity of existing examples, the absence of silver coinage in this period is conspicuous, especially when compared with the vigorous output of previous kings Levon I, Hetoum I, and Levon II.³

It is clear that from 1289 to 1301, the royal mint of Armenia was in disarray. A comparative abundance of copper coin suggests that the mint was active, despite the continuing Mameluke pressure which undoubtedly had a disruptive effect on the lucrative maritime and overland caravan trade. The quality of the design work on the coinage of Smpad and especially that of Gosdantin I suggests that talented die engravers were available. Perhaps it is premature to speculate that the scarcity of silver coinage may have been due to a lack of available bullion. Bedoukian points out that Hetoum II, whose temperament leaned toward the monastery rather than the throne, was not interested in glorifying himself with silver coinage,⁴ while presumably the usurpers devoted most of their energy to maintaining control of the palace and could do no more than strike a few propaganda pieces advertising their rule.⁵ The fact remains that, for over a decade, the Armenian mint was unable to satisfy the country's need for a circulating coinage, and the ability to strike silver in large enough quantities to support commerce was in danger of being lost.

¹ This article has been written to accompany, and should be studied in conjunction with, Y. T. Nersessian's "A Hoard of Levon III Takvorins" which appears on pages 3 to 14 of this issue of the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*. Nersessian provides additional details about Levon III, his times, and his coinage, which for the sake of brevity are not repeated in this article. The authors are indebted to Mr. Nersessian for his encouragement, assistance, and willingness to publish our study alongside of his own. Additional historical details may be found in Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian's landmark study *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* (2nd revised edition, 1979), and Sirarpie Der Nersessian's "The Kingdom of Cilician Armenia" in Kenneth M. Setton's *A History of the Crusades*, Volume II, pp. 630-659.

² Der Nersessian, p. 656, footnote 47.

³ See, for example, Bedoukian's statistical compilation in *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*, pp. 113-119.

⁴ Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*, pp. 13, 89.

⁵ Bedoukian makes the point about propaganda coins in two important articles which are reprinted in his *Selected Numismatic Studies*. On Gosdantin I, see "The Coinage of Gosdantin I (1298-1299) of Cilician Armenia," pp. 334-338; on Smpad, see "Two Unpublished Coins of Smpad," pp. 538-547.

The accession of Levon III to the throne exerted a stabilizing effect on the kingdom which made possible the resumption of a vigorous output of silver coin, although, as Bedoukian points out, the issue is significantly debased (both in terms of weight and silver titre) from the standards which prevailed during the reigns of Levon I, Hetoum I, and even to some degree that of Levon II.⁶ Because a comparatively large number of takvorins of Levon III have survived, most authorities attribute them to a period beginning in 1301 (six years prior to his actual coronation), suggesting that the reorganization of the Armenian mint must have taken place at that time or shortly thereafter. In the context of his day, certainly, Levon's achievement in reviving the mint was a noteworthy accomplishment, even if the output did not attain the exceptional standards established by the founders of the Cilician kingdom.

Comments on the Hoard

In January of 1990, the authors purchased a group of 133 cleaned takvorins of Levon III, of which 112 entered the Saryan collection (S) and the remaining 21 entered the Hajinian collection (H). It was represented to the authors that these were the last remaining pieces of a hoard of about 700 Levon III takvorins which had recently appeared on the market. Because of the secrecy involved in numismatic transactions, the provenance of the hoard is unknown. The composition and cleaned appearance of this hoard is similar to Nercessian's collection, suggesting that the two groups may have originated from a single larger hoard. Because of the uncertainty, however, it was agreed that the two groups should be published simultaneously as separate studies.

In examining the coins, the authors are compelled to arrive at the same conclusion as Nercessian regarding their integrity as a true hoard. Although no intruders are apparent, coins of very high grade and certain rare varieties are definitely lacking. It is very probable that the hoard was picked over for commercial purposes before reaching the authors. Nevertheless, its value for elucidating the coinage of this period is readily apparent, for as Nercessian points out, no hoard studies of Levon III takvorins have been published heretofore.

Cataloguing the Coins


This collection is catalogued by the method employed by Nercessian. Each coin is first attributed to Bedoukian's corpus according to its Armenian-lettered inscription, with the addition of designations such as "V" for variety when a coin does not exactly fit the scheme. The obverse and reverse designs are classified according to Nercessian's carefully executed diagrams. Each coin is assigned a sequential number beginning at 201, with an additional "S" or "H" to identify the location. Die numbers are listed sequentially, but the numbers have been assigned independently and do not necessarily correlate with those used in Nercessian's article.


Due to wear or uneven striking, it is sometimes impossible to attribute a coin without careful comparison to better preserved examples. For example, coins represented by obverse dies 27 and 31 have dots in the obverse inscription band, but since the dot is sometimes off the edge or otherwise impossible to see, its presence must be inferred by correlation with visible features.


In some cases, the rear flank of the horse, and more rarely the rear flank of the lion, show additional die markings, such as a trefoil or some similar symbol. These potentially offer an additional approach to die classification, although the markings are not apparent on every example since the high points of the coin are sometimes worn smooth. Horse flank markings are observed on coins struck from dies 29, 31, 41, 45, 51, and 59. A flank mark is visible on the reverse lion on some coins of die 14. A study of these markings might prove of value in a better preserved series of coins.


⁶ Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*, p. 91.

Table I. Levon III takvorin catalogue

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	Pl
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
201S	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1c	A1	2.31	01	02
202S	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	A13	2.46	03	04
203S	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1c	A13	2.31	05	04
204H	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1b	B1	2.52	07	06
205S	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A2V	2.64	09	08
206S	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A2	2.56	09	10
207S	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A2	2.52	09	12
208S	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A2	2.56	09	14
209H	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ lion flank mark	1a	A2	2.52	09	14
210H	1736	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A2	2.47	07	12
211S	1736a	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A3	2.38	09	16
212S	1736a	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A3	2.28	09	16
213S	1738V	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Բ ligatured Ի and Ս	1c	A2	2.46	11	18
214S	1739	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1a	A2	2.50	09	20
215S	1739	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1a	A2	2.38	09	20
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
216S	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	2a	B2	2.46	13	22
217S	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	2a	A10	2.48	13	24
218S	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	2a	B2	2.39	13	22
219H	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	2a	A10	2.46	13	26
220H	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	3b	A2	2.41	15	12
221H	1740	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	3b	B2	2.54	15	28
222S	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2a	A4	2.53	13	30
223S	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2a	A4	2.47	13	30
224S	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2a	A4	2.39	13	30
225S	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2a	A2	2.46	13	12
226S	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.44	17	14
227S	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.46	17	14
228S	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2c	A2V	2.42	19	08
229H	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2a	A2	2.68	13	32
230H	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2a	A2	2.52	13	12
231H	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.60	15	12
232S	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.39	17	34
233S	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.54	17	34
234S	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.52	17	34
235H	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.46	17	36
236S	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.34	15	36
237S	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A7	2.62	17	38
238S	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2c	A7	2.55	19	38
239H	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2c	A7	2.46	19	38
240S	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A2	2.30	21	40
241S	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A2	2.51	21	40
242S	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A2	2.37	21	40
243H	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱՆ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A2	2.46	23	42

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	Pl
244S	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A7	2.68	21	44
245S	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3b	A2	2.67	15	42
246S	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.48	19	46
247S	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A2	2.50	19	46
248S	1744	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A7	2.45	21	48
249S	1744	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A9	2.73	21	50
250S	1744	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A7V	2.64	21	52
251S	1744	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2c	A7V	2.46	19	52
252S	1744V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ծ	3a	A2	2.38	17	18
253H	1744V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ծ	3a	A2	2.44	17	18
254S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A7	2.29	17	54
255S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A7	2.62	17	56
256S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A7	2.49	21	58
257H	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A7	2.43	21	58
258S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.50	21	60
259S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.38	21	60
260S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.55	21	60
261S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.61	21	60
262S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3b	A2	2.47	15	62
263S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3b	A2	2.41	15	62
264S	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3b	A2	2.42	15	62
+ԼԵԻՈՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
265S	1753c	+ԾԻՆԵԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔ Ի ՍԻՍ	4fV	B7	2.03	25	64
+ԼԵԻՈՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ՝							
266S	1742V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	2b	A9V	2.52	27	66
267S	1743V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2b	A7	2.54	27	68
268S	1743V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2b	A11	2.62	27	70
269S	1743V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2b	A11	2.42	27	70
270S	1744V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2b	A7V	2.61	27	52
271S	1744V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	2b	A7V	2.53	27	52
272S	1745V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	2b	A7	2.51	27	58
+ԼԵԻՈՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
273S	1758	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A7	2.86	29	72
274S	1758	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A7	2.33	29	72
275S	1758	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1b	A7	2.56	29	72
276S	1759	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՍԻ	1b	A7	2.52	29	74
277S	1759a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՍԻ	1b	A2	2.61	29	76
278S	1759b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Լ	1b	A2	2.40	29	78
Nos. 273S-278S, horse flank marks							
279S	1763	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4cV	B3	2.40	33	80
+ԼԵԻՈՆ ԹԱԳԱԽՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
280S	1760a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ Ս	1b	A7	2.45	31	54
281S	1760a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ Ս	1b	A7	2.52	31	54
282S	1760a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ Ս	1b	A7	2.42	31	54
283S	1760a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1b	A7	2.60	31	54
284S	1760a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1b	A7	2.50	31	54

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
285S	1760aV	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ Nos. 280S-285S, horse flank marks	1b	A9V	2.47	31	66
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
286S	1772V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4f	B7	2.25	35	64
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
287S	1775a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳ Ս	6c	C1V	2.57	37	82
288S	1775b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԳԱՂԱԳ Ս	6c	C2	2.49	37	84
289S	1775b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԳԱՂԱԳ Ս	6c	C2	2.35	37	84
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ (obverse: two staffs)							
290S	1776V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4d	B3	2.22	39	86
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
291S	1776	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ horse flank marks	1b	A2	2.47	41	88
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ (Obverse Ն = Ն and Ե ligature)							
292S	1776V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4c	B4	2.21	43	90
293H	1776V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4c	B4	2.01	43	90
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
294S	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1b	A2	2.43	45	88
295S	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1b	A2	2.52	45	88
296S	1777	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1b	A2	2.48	45	92
Nos. 294S-296S, horse flank marks							
297S	1777a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1c	A7	2.60	47	94
298S	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A7	2.53	47	96
299S	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A7	2.48	47	96
300S	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A7	2.47	47	96
301S	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A11	2.52	47	70
302S	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A2	2.42	47	40
303H	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A12	2.58	47	98
304H	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A2	2.37	47	40
305S	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A7	2.59	47	48
306S	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ horse flank marks	1b	A12	2.58	45	98
307S	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A9	2.55	47	50
308S	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A9	2.51	47	50
309S	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A9	2.60	47	50
310S	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A9	2.47	47	50
311S	1779b	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4e	B3	2.34	49	100
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
312H	1783	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՄԻ horse flank marks	1b	A5	2.57	51	102
313S	1789V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՄԻ	5b	A5	2.59	53	102
+ԼԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
314S	1791	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1c	A12	2.55	55	104

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
315S	1791	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.56	55 104	
316H	1791	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A12	2.60	55 104	
317H	1793	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1c	A9V	2.52	55 66	
318S	1793a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.56	55 68	
319S	1793a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.44	55 74	
320S	1793a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1a	A7	2.37	57 74	
321S	1794	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.47	55 106	
322S	1794	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A7	2.58	55 106	
323S	1795	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A2	2.40	55 108	
324S	1795	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	1c	A2	2.52	55 108	
325S	1795a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Լ	1c	A2	2.47	55 78	
326S	1795a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Լ	1c	A2	2.46	55 78	
+ԼԵԻՐՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ՝							
327S	1796a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4c	B3	2.42	59 110	
328S	1796a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	4c	B3	2.59	59 110	
+ԼԵԻՐՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ							
329H	1798	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՍԻ	3a	A5	2.55	61 112	
330S	1799	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A12	3.13	61 114	
331S	1799	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A5	2.59	61 116	
Nos. 329H-331S, horse flank marks							
+ԼԵԻՐՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ							
332S	1801V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	8a	B8	2.61	63 118	*
+ԼԵԻՐՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ							
333S	1803a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԲԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	5aV	B9	2.24	65 120	*

Metrology

These coins show a somewhat higher average weight than that indicated for the 12 weighed specimens in Bedoukian's corpus. If we ignore a singleton of type 1804 weighing 1.40 grams (mentioned by Bedoukian), we find his coins range in weight from 2.05 to 2.57 grams, with a mean of 2.28 grams. By contrast, Nercessian achieves a mean of 2.45 grams in his large group and 2.50 grams in his supplemental group. Our 133 coins attain a mean of 2.48 grams (even ignoring the unusually high but definitely authentic 3.13 gram coin in the Saryan collection). A few coins in our hoard are clipped, which could reduce an individual weight by about 0.5 to 2.0 %. These coins fall within a very tight weight range, as indicated by the observed coefficient of variation of 5.3% calculated for our hoard (4.8% if we delete the 3.13 gram piece). This suggests generally good control of mint operations during Levon's reign.

Table II. Obverse versus reverse design

Obv	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
A	58	21	35		1				115
B	1	2	1	9	1			1	15
C						3			3
D									
Total	59	23	36	9	2	3		1	133

We observe, like Nercessian, that the lower weight coins in our group definitely belong to type 4/B, although not all such coins are underweight. Since type B coins are artistic coins, it is tempting to ascribe them to the beginning of Levon's reign. At least some B coins were struck at a time and/or place where control of planchet weight was less satisfactory. Possibly the underweight B coins were struck before the mint had become well controlled, followed by some B coins which were of normal weight.

It is worth mentioning that two coins in this group belonging to type 4f/B7 have sustained more circulation wear than average for this group. This can be explained by postulating that these were early or idiosyncratic types. Subsequently, the weight of the coins may have been adjusted upward to an average of about 2.50 grams for the bulk of Levon's emission.

Table III. Weight distribution based on obverse design

	Under	1.91	2.01	2.11	2.21	2.31	2.41	2.51	2.61	over	
Cross	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.20	2.30	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.70	Total
1					1	9	19	27	2	1	59
2						2	11	7	3		23
3					2	5	13	8	6	2	36
4			2		3	2	1	1			9
5					1			1			2
6						1	1	1			3
7											
8									1		1
Total			2		7	19	45	45	12	3	133

Table IV. Weight distribution based on reverse cross

	Under Cross	1.91 1.90	2.01 2.10	2.11 2.20	2.21 2.30	2.31 2.40	2.41 2.50	2.51 2.50	2.61 2.70	over 2.70	Total
A					3	15	42	41	11	3	115
B			2		4	3	2	3	1		15
C						1	1	1			3
D											
Total			2		7	19	45	45	12	3	133

Stylistic Comments and Mint Organization

A study of the more than 200 coins catalogued in Bedoukian, and over 300 coins in these two articles, reveals a variety of design types in which the majority of coins conform to a fairly uniform pattern, as follows:

Obverse: King on horseback riding right, carrying a mace, with three dots arranged in a triangle in the field behind the king (Nercessian styles 1, 2, and 3).

Reverse: Lion walking right with cross above, curved tail with one dot in the field near the tail (Nercessian style A).

In this collection, fully 118 specimens (88.7%) conform to the above obverse description, and 115 specimens (86.5%) conform to the reverse description.

The distribution of obverse and reverse design styles is very similar to that reported by Nercessian in the accompanying paper. Our obverses are distributed as follows: 1, 44.4%; 2, 17.3%; 3, 27.1%; 4, 6.8%; 5, 1.5%; 6, 2.2%; and 8, 0.7%. Reverses are A, 86.5%; B, 11.3%; and C, 2.2%. This differs in some respect from that indicated in Bedoukian's corpus, which is not a single hoard but rather an inventory of several important private and museum collections gathered over several decades. On the one hand, the similar compositions of our collection and that of Nercessian supports the hypothesis that all of these coins derived from the same larger hoard. In Bedoukian's corpus, however, fully 32 of 210 listed examples show obverse style Bed. 1746 (figure 8-like symbol behind rider), and 11 examples of Bed. types 1748, 1761, and 1762 (open circle to left of rider), of which not even one example is found in over three hundred coins reported here.

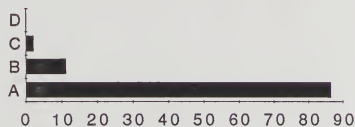
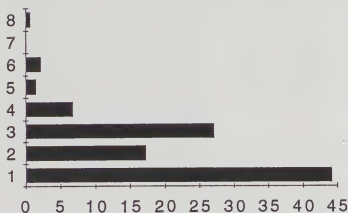


Chart I. Obverse design percentage distribution Chart II. Reverse design percentage distribution

Even brief examination of Levon's takvorins shows that specific obverses and reverses are associated with each other; certain combinations occur together very frequently, and others almost never (see Table II). For example, both Nercessian's group and our own show many coins of obverse-reverse combination 1/A and several of 4/B, but very few of 1/B and none of 4/A. Coins of type 6/C, while rare, appear to form a third independent group. This finding has important implications with respect to the organization of mint activities, suggesting that dies were engraved and coins were struck at discrete times in between which production was interrupted, and/or that coins were struck at more than one location or workshop with almost no exchange of dies.

Among the intriguing and enchanting features of these coins is the multiplicity of design variations. Possibly, the various cross types on the reverse of these coins correspond to the principal Christian ethnic groups who lived in Cilicia—Latins (from Venice and Genoa), Greeks, Crusaders, and Armenians. Could these have been cut by engravers of different nationalities or for use by specific communities? Reverse lion tail designs, and the obverse field marks behind the rider might be correlated to a chronological system or represent signatures of specific die cutters. Proof of such a scheme must await the establishment of a die chronology.

Die Linkage and Estimation of the Size of Levon's Coinage

A partial die linkage chart showing the interrelationships of several coins from this hoard is illustrated. Note that this chart shows that reverses B1 and B2 (represented by dies 06, 22, and 28) are linked to the majority A varieties. No linkages to other B reverses are apparent, supporting the notion that separate officinae were striking coins.

It is possible to use the data in this paper to estimate separately the total number of obverse and reverse dies used in Levon's silver coinage. Although it can be seen that this hoard is a non-random sample with several types excluded, such an estimate might illustrate the potential of statistical methods to reveal new and interesting information. From a seminal review on the topic by Esty, the method of Good was selected.⁷

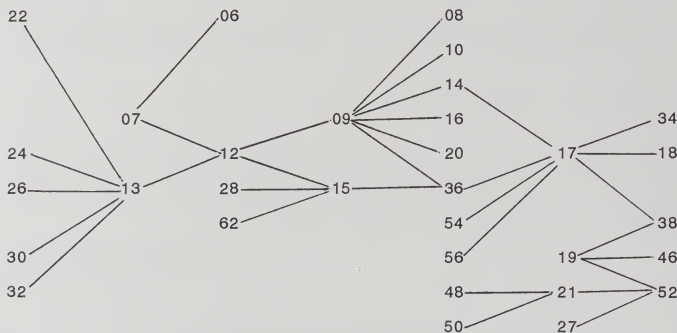


Fig. 1. Obverse-reverse die linkage

To compute the total number of reverse dies in this coinage, the number of different dies observed in the sample (60), the number of dies which occur exactly once in the sample (21), and the number of dies which appear exactly twice in the sample (19) are required. The calculations show that perhaps about 91 total reverse dies were used, with a 95% confidence limit of between 67 and 143 dies. If we accept Esty's high estimate that each reverse die was used to strike 30,000 coins, an output of approximately 2.0 to 4.3 million pieces would have been achieved.

Similar computations were made for the obverse dies. The calculations yield a total die inventory of about 63 obverse dies, with a 95% confidence limit of between 45 and 106 dies. Similar obverse dies were fixed, they had a longer lifetime and could strike more coins. This result is consistent with the finding for the reverse dies, and lends some credibility to the calculation.

Conclusion

The following sequence of events is proposed as a reasonable speculation based on the limited evidence at hand. The artistic 4/B coins, several of which were underweight, were struck at the beginning of Levon's reign before the mint was fully reorganized following the more than 10 year virtual hiatus of silver coin. Later, B coins of better weight were produced, but the need to manufacture coins in quantity led to the creation of A obverses which, while still attractive, could be more simply engraved. Large production of coins of types 1/A, 2/A and 3/A, with an intended weight of 2.50 grams, was then achieved. The hoard itself was possibly buried in the middle of Levon's reign, before coins of Bedoukian types 1746, 1748, 1761, and 1762 were placed into circulation. The total silver coinage of Levon III was approximately 3 million pieces.

⁷ Warren W. Esty, "Estimation of the Size of a Coinage: a Survey and Comparison of Methods," *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. 146 (1986), pp. 185-215, see esp. pp. 188-190, 208.

ԼԵՒՈՆ Գ-Ի ԹԱԳՈՒՌՈՒՆՆԵՐՈՒ ԱՅԼ ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏ ՄԸ

[Ամփոփում]

Հեղինակները կը նկարագրեն Լևոն Գ-ի պատկանող 133 թագուորիններէ բաղկացած Քաղաքածայ մը: 1990 թ. երբ իրենք գնեցին այս արձաթեայ դրամները, իրենք գնկուցունցաւ թէ գանձը կը կազմէ 700 կտորոց դրամագիտի մը մի մասը:

Դրամները դասաորոշեցան ըստ Զարեմ Պտուկեանի Կիլիկեան Հայաստանի դրամները գրքի ուղղութեան և Ներսէսեանի պատրաստած ակողմի և քելողմի պատկերատիպերուն ուսումնասիրութեան համար պատրաստած գծագրութիւններուն:

Դրամներու մեծամասնութիւնը (աւելի քան 85 %) կը պատկանին մի տեսակ պատկերատիպին: Թագուորիններու միջին կշիռն է 2.48 գրամ:

Հիմնած սահմանափակ տուեալներու վրայ՝ հեղինակները կ'ենթադրեն թէ 4/B տեսակ դրամները նախապէս կտրուած են (ոմանք քիչ մը թելն քաշով): Ասոնց հետեւած է զանգուածային թողարկումները, որ ունեցած են սովորական կշիռ. 1/A, 2/A և 3/A: Դրամներու զանազան տարբերակներու բացակայութիւնը, Պտուկեանի թիւ 1746, 1748, 1761, 1762 և այլն, կը թելադրէ թէ դրամագիտը թաղուած է Լևոնի գահակալութեան միջև: Ըստ Լստիի հաշտապահութեան՝ Լևոն Գ-ի կողմէ թողարկուած թագուորինները կը հաշուէն մօտաւորապէս 3 միլիոն:

Լ. Ա. ՍԱՐԵԱՆ և Զ. Ա. ՀԱՄԻՆԵԱՆ
Գորինֆոլդ, Ուիսքոնսին

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

- 1 SARYAN, Levon A. An Ancient Bronze Depicting an Armenian Tiara, by L. A. Saryan. *Numismatic Circular*, Vol. XCIX (May 1991), No. 4 pp. 112, illus.

Saryan is seeking information on a Middle Eastern bronze piece. The obverse displays a device which resembles an Armenian tiara. The four-peaked tiara faces left. On the reverse there is a horse to right. Metrological data and Greek legends are published.

Սարեան ծանօթութիւն կը փնտռէ Միջին Արևելեան բրոնզէ կտորի մը մասին: Երեսին վրայ պատկերուած է առարկայ մը, զոր հայկական խոյրի մը կը նմանի: Զորս սրածայր զաւաթ-ներով խոյրը կը հայի ղէպի ձախ: Ետին պատկերուած է ձի մը ղէպի աջ: Հրատարակուած են նաեւ չափաբաշխական տուեալներն ու յունաստաւ չընդգրկուածները:

- 2 SARYAN, Levon A. Armenian Numismatic Society Marks Twenty Years of Service, by L. A. Saryan. *Armenian Observer*, Vol. XXI (13 February 1991), No. 14, p. 5; *Armenian Weekly*, Vol. LXI (9 February 1991), No. 9 (29485), p. 11; *Armenian Life*, Vol. VI (15 February 1991), No. 19, pp. 25, 26; *California Courier*, Vol. XXXIII (30 May 1991), No. 47, p. 2.

Saryan introduces the Armenian Numismatic Society to the readers, mentions some of Society's publications and its donation of nearly \$20,000 worth of books to replenish libraries in Armenia. On its twentieth anniversary, the Society appeals to the public to purchase and distribute its publications to various libraries.

Սարեան ընթերցասէրներուն կը ներկայացնէ Հայ Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութիւնը, կը լիչէ կազմակերպութեան որոշ հրատարակութիւնները և իր \$20,000-ի մօտ արժող գիրքերու նուէրը վերակազմելու Հայաստանի գրադարանները: Իր քսաներորդ տարեգարձին, ընկերակցութիւնը հանրութեան կը դիմէ, որ գնեն իր գրքերը և նուիրեն գանազան գրադարաններուն:

- 3 SARYAN, Levon A. Numismatic Society Marks Twenty Years of Service. *Armenian Reporter*, Vol. XXIV (7 February 1991), No. 18, p. 12.
See abstract of No. 2

A HOARD OF COPPER COINS OF TIGRANES THE GREAT AND A HOARD OF ARTAXIAD COINS, by Paul Z. Bedoukian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 7, 32 pp., 2 pls., card covers. Bilingual in English and Armenian. ISBN No. 0-9606842-7-1. \$5.50 plus shipping.

Bedoukian catalogues two hoards belonging to ancient Armenia. He hopes that the information recorded will help advance our knowledge of the coinage of this period.

One hundred thirty-three copper coins, all attributed to Tigranes the Great (95-55 B.C.), are catalogued in the first hoard. They are classified under the following headings: Tyche of Antioch, Heracles, Cornucopia, Nike, letter "A" to left of king's head, head of wheat, overstruck coins, and unpublished coins.

Thirty-four silver and copper coins are catalogued in the second hoard. The coins are attributed to the following rulers of Armenia: Tiribazus (400-384 B.C.), Mithridates of Armenia (163-130 B.C.); Commagenian coins including rulers Arsames, Gallinicus and Epiphanus; Tigranes I, Tigranes II, and Artavasdes II.

This study should be a source of new information and a valuable asset to the library of all those who have an interest in the study of ancient Armenian coins.

Date.....

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
8511 Beverly Park Place
Pico Rivera, California 90660-1920, U. S. A.

Please send me copies of the book entitled *A Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes the Great and a Hoard of Artaxiad Coins*, by Paul Z. Bedoukian, \$5.50 each. Enclosed is a check for \$..... (cost of the book plus postage and handling, per copy \$1.25 U.S.A., \$1.50 elsewhere). California residents please add \$0.45 for sales tax. Foreign remittance may be made by international money order, or a draft drawn on a branch of U.S. bank.

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A HOARD OF COPPER COINS OF TIGRANES THE GREAT AND A HOARD OF ARTAXIAD COINS, by Paul Z. Bedoukian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication*, No. 7, 32 pp., 2 pls., card covers. Bilingual in English and Armenian. ISBN No. 0-9606842-7-1. \$5.50 plus shipping.

The Armenian Numismatic Society is offering this title to its membership for \$4.50 + shipping and handling expenses.

Date.....

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
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Please send me copies of the book entitled *A Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes the Great and a Hoard of Artaxiad Coins*, by Paul Z. Bedoukian, \$4.50 each. Enclosed is a check for \$..... (cost of the book plus postage and handling, per copy \$1.25 U.S.A., \$1.50 elsewhere). California residents please add \$0.37 for sales tax. Foreign remittance may be made by international money order, or a draft drawn on a branch of U.S. bank.

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8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1920, U.S.A.
ANA ANS ArmNS IBNS RNS SAN

1992

Bulletin No. 15
Supplement C

Tigranes II The Great (95-55 B.C.)

001.	Silver, tetradrachm. Obv.: Bust of Tigranes draped r., clean shaven and wearing ornate five-pointed tiara, edged with pearls. A broad diadem knotted at the back encircles the head and falls downward. Divided drapes cover the ear and the neck. The tiara is adorned with an eight-pointed star flanked by two eagles back to back and with heads turned to each other. Floral design to left and right of eagles. Fillet border. Rev.: Tyche of Antioch, draped and wearing a turreted crown, seated r. on rock, holding a palm branch in her r. hand; at her feet the upper portion of a youthful male nude figure of the river-god Orontes swimming r. Whole within laurel wreath. To r. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ; l. downward ΤΙΓΡΑΝΟΥ. Field marks. Silver, tetradrachm, type Bed 20, -VF.....	1400.00	002.	--, Type Bed 21, VF/VF+.....	1650.00
04a.	--, Type Bed 19/17, VF.....	1100.00	04b.	--, Type Bed 19, 5% off center, VF.....	0950.00
04c.	--, Type Bed 19, F/VF.....	0650.00			
04d.	--, Type Bed 19, double strike on king's nose (reverse is very attractive), F+VF.....	0475.00			
04e.	--, Type Bed 19, VF.....	1050.00	04f.	--, Type Bed 20, VF.....	1025.00
005.	Silver, drachm. Similar to the above, but "King of kings" inscription. Bed type 64, VF.....	1850.00			

We have been able to obtain a small parcel of Artaxiad copper coins. They all have black and green patina. They grade F to VF. The eight-pointed star and both eagles can be seen on most of them.

06a.	Reverse Tyche. Overstruck on Phoenician copper. A head covered with a helmet can be seen under the bust of Tigranes. Type Bed. 92. F-VF.....	75.00			
06b.	--, Overstruck on Phoenician copper. Understrike visible. Type Bed 92. F-VF.....	75.00			
12a.	Reverse Vahagn (Heracles). Type Bed 99. F-VF.....	75.00			
12b.	--, overstruck on Phoenician copper. Understrike visible. Type Bed 100. F-VF.....	85.00			
12c.	--, Type Bed. 100. F-VF.....	75.00	12d.	--, Type Bed 101. F-VF.....	60.00
12e.	--, Type Bed 101. F-VF.....	60.00	12f.	--, Type Bed 101, F-VF.....	65.00
16a.	Reverse cornucopiae. Overstruck on Phoenician copper. Understrike legend is visible under the bust of Tigranes. Very sharp and attractive copper coin. Type Bed 104. VF.....	125.00			

Levon I trams (1198-1219)

26a.	Silver, tram. Obv.: king seated on a throne ornamented with lions, wearing crown and royal mantle on his shoulders. He holds a cross with his r. hand and fleur-de-lis in his l. hand. Rev.: long cross between two lions rampant regardant. Armenian inscription on both sides. Obv.: ԼԵՎՈՆ ԹԱԳՈՒ ԱՐԵՆ ԶԱՅՈՑ. Bed 126. Mint lustre on the coin. EF.....	075.00	027.	--, Type Bed 170, F+.....	015.00
028.	--, Type Bed 189, F+.....	011.00	28a.	--, Type Bed 158, F+.....	020.00
28b.	--, Type Bed 215, F+.....	020.00	029.	--, Type Bed 216, F+.....	011.00
29a.	--, Type Bed 251, ԶԱՅՈՑ VF+.....	040.00	30a.	--, Type Bed 284, VF.....	030.00
031.	--, Type Bed 288, F+/VF.....	017.50	31a.	--, Type Bed 299, VF+.....	040.00
31b.	--, Type Bed 318a, F+.....	012.50	034.	--, Type Bed 331, -F.....	010.00
035.	--, Type Bed 345, F/F+.....	015.00	036.	--, Type Bed 345V, F+.....	015.00
037.	--, Type Bed 387, F+.....	012.00	37a.	--, Type Bed 468a, -VF.....	015.00
37b.	--, Type Bed 474V, -VF.....	020.00	37c.	--, Type Bed 486b, -VF.....	015.00
038.	--, Type Bed 486b, F+.....	012.50	039.	--, Type Bed 529, F+.....	015.00
040.	--, Type Bed 529, -VF.....	025.00	40a.	--, Type Bed 565, VF/-VF.....	030.00
041.	--, Type Bed 593, F.....	017.50	042.	--, Type Bed 597, F+.....	011.00
42a.	--, Type bed 616V, F+.....	012.50	043.	--, Type Bed 623, F+.....	017.50
43a.	--, Type Bed 657c, ԼԵՎՈՆ inscr., VF.....	030.00	43b.	--, Type Bed 636, F+.....	010.00
044.	--, Type Bed 660, -F.....	010.00			

Kaikhosrew II dirhams (635-644 A.H./A.D. 1237-1245)

55a.	Obv.: lion surmounted by sun. Star in various places. Rev.: Within square four-line inscription. Sivas (mint) and the date on margin and outer circle. These zodiacal dirhams are among highly popular seljuq coinage. The name of Kaikhosrew II also appears on the bilingual trams of Hetoum I. Coins grade VF to -VF. All coins are catalogued, assigned a BMC number, graded, dated (A.H.) and in plastic envelopes. Each.....	020.00
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Hetoum I trams (1226-1271)

57a.	Hetoum-Zabel regular silver tram. Obv.: on the left, queen to r. but facing; on the right, Hetoum to l. and facing. Both crowned, wearing royal vestments, and holding a long cross. Rev.: lion to r., crowned and a cross behind him. Type Bed 852, VF	025.00	058. --, Type Bed 857, VF	035.00
059.	--, Type Bed 874, F+	030.00	060. --, Type Bed 875, -VF	025.00
60a.	--, Type Bed 887, VF/VF+	035.00	061. --, Type Bed 896, VF+	025.00
61a.	--, Type Bed 920, VF+	035.00	064. --, Type Bed 925, -EF	040.00
065.	--, Type Bed 952, VF	035.00	64a. --, Type Bed 944, VF+	030.00
64a.	--, Type Bed 944, VF+	030.00	066. --, Type Bed 959, VF	035.00
76a.	--, Type Bed 985, VF+	045.00	67b. --, Type Bed 971, -VF	030.00
067.	--, Type Bed 983, -VF	030.00	068. --, Type Bed 987, VF	035.00
069.	--, Type Bed 988, VF	030.00	070. --, Type Bed 1006, -VF	025.00
70a.	--, Type Bed 1032, VF+	035.00	071. --, Type Bed 1032, -VF	025.00
073.	--, Type Bed 1035, VF	035.00	074. --, Type Bed 1045, VF+	040.00
075.	--, Type Bed 1051, VF	030.00	75a. --, Type Bed 1063, VF+	030.00
75b.	--, Type Bed 1165, VF+	045.00		
274.	Copper coin, equestrian kardez. Obv.: king on horseback to right Rev.: cross. Circular Armenian inscription on both sides. Type Bed 1373, -F			010.00
275.	--, Type Bed 1383, F/VG			008.00

Smpad poghs (1296-1298)

276.	Copper pogh. Obv.: King on horseback to right. He holds reins with left hand, and mace with his right, extending over his right shoulder. Rev.: Cross with four doves in flight in four quarters. Type Bed 1687V, VG+			010.00
277.	Similar to Bed 1697, F+	015.00	278. --, Similar to Bed 1699, VG+	007.50

Levon V (1374-1375) copper

279.	Copper pogh. Obv.: Lion of Cyprus walking right. Rev.: Simple cross. Similar to Bed 2239, VG	015.00
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Commagene

280.	Antiochus IV (A.D. 38-82). Obv.: head of Antiochus to right. Rev.: scorpion within laurel wreath. Type BMC p. 106. No. 7. tetrachalcon, VF	95.00
281.	Queen Iotape, wife of Antiochus IV (A.D. 38-82). Obv.: head of Iotape to right. Rev.: scorpion within laurel wreath. Type BMC p. 109. No. 1. tetrachalcon, F/F	110.00

Marcus Aurelius (163 - 164)

282.	AR denarius. Rev.: Armenia seated in attitude of mourning and ARMEN inscr., Bed type 403, F	75.00
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Bank Notes of Armenia

283.	Republic of Armenia (1919), 1,000 r., Nercessian <i>Bank Notes of Armenia</i> (BNA) III.6, Pick S649	67.00
284.	Republic of Armenia (1919), 5 rubles, BNA III.13, Pick S657, VF	17.50
285.	Republic of Armenia (1919), 10 rubles, BNA III.14.a, Pick S658, VF-F	17.50
286.	Republic of Armenia (1919), 100 rubles, BNA III.19.b, Pick S663, VF	25.00
287.	Republic of Armenia (1920), 5000 rubles, BNA III.31.b, Pick S673a, EF+	45.00
288.	Republic of Armenia (1920), 5000 rubles, BNA III.31.c, Pick S673, EF	35.00

Armenian Antiquity

289.	Six silver bracelets were found with a hoard of 810 Hetoum-Zabel trams. The cross, bird, and other engraved decorations on the bracelets indicate that they have been manufactured by the Armenians. [Color photographs available: set of 17 pictures for \$5.00 (within US), foreign orders \$7.00]. To the best of our knowledge this is the first time that such a priceless discovery has been made. We have catalogued numerous Armenian manuscripts, tens of thousands of Armenian coins, but not a single Armenian jewelry from medieval period. Six bracelets	7,500.00
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Series I

Volume XVIII, No. 2

June 1992

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ARMENIAN

NUMISMATIC

JOURNAL

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ՀԱՅ ԴՐԱՄԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԻՍ ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Series I

Vol. XVIII, No. 2

June 1992

EDITORIAL

To many of you who have written or spoken and requested articles on counterfeit detection, grading and cleaning of Armenian coins., your wishes are to be fulfilled. Although space within *Armenian Numismatic Journal* is limited because of our meager revenues, we are pleased to be able to inaugurate a series on these topics in this issue.

In this series, "Counterfeit Armenian Coin Detection," is the first to grace the pages of our journal's present issue. The second article will present grading of ancient and medieval Armenian coins, followed by a discussion of coin cleaning.

Your response to both of these articles is very important. Therefore, it is up to you to send us feedback in form of comments from your experiences, unknown sources where additional information can be found, and recommendations to improve the quality of the articles in this series.

One of our long range plans is to publish a book on "Armenian Coins and Their Values" (ACTV) which will be more or less based and guided by Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian's books, the standard reference on the respective series: coinage of the Armenian kingdom of Sophene, coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia, coinage of the Armenian kingdom of Commagene, and coinage of Cilician Armenia. The revised or the expanded version of both articles mentioned above will be included in the appendix of this book. It is our conviction that information/education is the best material we can offer to our members and readers in general since collector's best protection is knowledge.

The time table for the publication of ACTV will depend on our Society's finances and how fast the photographs can be prepared and accumulated for the missing coins. It is hoped that this can be completed sometime during the next few years.

Two veteran Armenian numismatists have been asked to compose articles and transmit to our membership/readers their wisdom and experience of cleaning ancient Armenian coins. Based on what I have seen, I am hopeful that neither one of them will disappoint our audience.

Y. T. Nercessian

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL is the quarterly publication of Armenian Numismatic Society, an educational, non-profit organization. Editor, Y. T. Nercessian, 8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, California 90660-1920, U. S. A. Associate Editor, W. Gewenian, Corresponding Editors, Levon A. Saryan (Greenfield, WI) and Henry Sarkissian (Yerevan). Non-member subscriptions (individuals and institutions) \$10.00 per year. Back issues available.

LETTERS

Thank you for your kind letter and the offprint [Levon III hoard], which I am pleased to have for my bookshelf. —and congratulations on a fine piece of work.

Michael Metcalf
Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Thanks for your note of 16 March 1992.

...You may reprint the UNESCO report. The Journal is really very nice. I think you can be proud of what you have done and I know you will have the courage to continue. ... I always read the journal with great interest. Your latest article [LIII hoard] was very interesting and the way you bind up the offprints is very professional.

Dickran Kouymjian
Fresno, California

Your package of February 25, 1992 and letter arrived intact and I will soon deliver Chuck's material and reprints [offprints]. Thanks very much for your help and effort, it was worthwhile.

Levon A. Saryan
Greenfield, Wisconsin

Enclosed are two checks for the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*. One is for the dues for this year and two more years (if I missed 1991 use this towards that year). The second check is to be used as a donation to keep the Society going. I enjoy the articles and the study of Armenian coins. I thank you for your hard work. At times you may think that most Armenians don't care about their numismatic heritage and you are right! Don't let that discourage you — many of us will pass the numismatic lamp to the next generation — perhaps there will be thousands of collectors by then.

Charles A. Hajinian
Brookfield, Wisconsin

—Հրատարակել եմ մի քանի յօդուածներ, կ'ուզարկեմ առանձին ծրարով: Ստացայ 1990-1991 թթ. Հայ Դրամագիտական Հանդէսի լրիւ համարները և իմ յօդուածի առանձնատպերը: Առանձին կը գրեմ իմ մտորումները հատորների մասին, բոլոր դէպքերում շատ շնորհակալ եմ և ուրախ, որ հանդէսը ապրում է և պարբերաբար հրատարակուում:

Թանգարանը մեր ունի նոր տնօրէն Ալֆրէդ Շահնազարեան, գիտակ պատմաբան է, բարեացակամ ու աշխատասէր կազմակերպեց մի հետաքրքիր ցուցահանդէս նուիրուած Մովսէս Որբենացուն: Լաւ ձև էին գտել՝ ներկայացնել թանգարանի այն արժէքները, որոնց մասին պատմաագիրը խօսել է իր Հայոց Պատմութիւնում: Ցուցադրել ենք և դրամներ:

Մէկ ուրախալի լուր յայտնեմ՝ Երևանում կազմակերպուեց դրամագէտների հայկական ընկերութիւն, 1991 թ. սկզբներին Ընկերութիւնը ունի կանոնադրութիւն, նախագահն է Մ. Հայրապետովը, շատ նուիրուած ու գործունեայ երիտասարդ է: Հրատարակելու ենք մի փոքրիկ ամսագիր՝ «Երամագէտ» անունումով: Ես այդ պարբերականի գիտակ խորհրդատուն եմ: Ես տուել եմ իրենց Ձեր հասցէն Երևի թէ արդէն նամակ գրել են: Սիրելի Նիկոլ, ուրախ կը լինենք որ թղթակցէք: Առաջին համարի նիւթերը հաւաքել ենք, բայց դժուարութիւնները շատ են, ելնելով մեր իրաւիճակից:

Ես մի փոքրիկ յօդուած եմ գրել Ձեր Ընկերակցութեան մասին խնդրում եմ շտապ ուղարկէք Ձեր Ընկերակցութեան մասին հետեւելով՝

1. Քանի մարդ է ընդգրկուած Ընկերակցութեան մէջ առ 1 Յունուարի 1992 թ. և քանի երկրից:
2. Հրատարակութիւնների հեռանկարի մասին:

Ունդրում եմ տեղեկութիւն յայտնէք Ձարեհ Պտուկեանի մասին Երկու տարի է ոչ մի լուր չկայ: Նամակներիս չի պատասխանում, գուցէ հիւանդ է: Ծառ եմ անհանգստանում: Ուղարկում եմ յօդուած Ս. Արովեանի պատկերով մեղադրի մասին:—

Henry Sarkissian
Yerevan

COUNTERFEIT ARMENIAN COIN DETECTION

By Y. T. Nercessian

Introduction

People¹ often question how one knows if a coin is authentic and how one can tell if his coin is a genuine piece or counterfeit. These are very good questions to which there are no short, precise, and clear cut answers. The fact that numerous collectors have solicited this information indicates that there is a need for a convenient reference about counterfeit Armenian coin detection. Knowledge is the best protection that the numismatic community can have against any kind of counterfeit coin. But information on this subject is built gradually and cannot be acquired overnight. This knowledge includes technical aspects as well as the wisdom of differentiating of what is genuine and what is imitation or forgery. Generally, a collector would do well to purchase his coins through reputable and known dealers who specialize in the field of ancient and medieval coins. If a collector can demonstrate that a dealer sold him (unknowingly) a counterfeit coin, chances are that a reputable dealer will be more than happy to trade it for a genuine piece.

One of the technical characteristics of a hammered or struck coin is the cracks appearing on the edge and passing through the flan. It is very hard to find a hammered genuine coin which does not have cracks on the edge. Holding an ancient or medieval coin in one's fingers, rotating around under a magnifying glass, can quickly reveal if the edge possesses cracks or is cut and filed to reduce excess weight or the evidence of casting. A genuine tetradrachm of the Artaxiad period or a Rouspenian silver coin will display numerous cracks on the edge. A close examination with a strong magnifying glass will persuade the student that it may be a genuine piece. In ancient period (Artaxiad dynasty), blanks of silver (gold or copper) were cast or cut from bars.² In medieval period (Rouspenian dynasty), the metal was flattened by hammering and cut with scissors into circular blanks.³ They were carefully weighed, trimmed to shape or to bring the weight within required tolerance (unlike gold and silver, the tolerance on copper or bronze coins was not extremely tight), heated, placed between obverse and reverse dies and struck with a heavy hammer on the back of the upper die. In most cases, during the striking process, very fine cracks developed on the edges of hammered coins. However, there is no guarantee that all struck coins are authentic. Modern forgers are in the market to manufacture coins and strike them with presses. The small time operator prepares his fake coin by casting. This writer has not yet encountered a genuine cast Armenian coin. Counterfeit Armenian coins, particularly rare ones, is always a possibility that a collector must consider in struck form. On many ancient authentic coins (but not medieval) there is a concavity on the reverse side which is hardly noticeable; in contrast, forgeries have a flat or even convex reverse.

The weight of a coin is another indication if it is authentic. If a tetradrachm of the Artaxiad period has a weight of 18 grams (or 10 grams low weight) or if a bilingual tram has a weight of 4 grams (or 2 grams low weight), this alone would be sufficient to raise the suspicion of a collector. This is where purchasing a book, learning about the average weight and size of a coin becomes extremely useful. Once the student is armed with the basic knowledge about the coin, he can learn peripheral information gradually or very fast depending on his motivation. The important point is that the information should be available to him for reference whenever necessary.

¹ Read during the December 7, 1985 meeting of the Armenian Numismatic Society in Pico Rivera, California as a part of "Odd and Curious Armenian Money" lecture.

² G. F. Hill, *Ancient Methods of Coining* (Numismatic Chronicle reprint series, New York, 1977).

³ P. Z. Bedoukian, "The Art of Coinage in Cilician Armenia," *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. LXXVII (April-June 1963), Nos. 4-6, pp. 247-264 (in Armenian); also in *Selected Numismatic Studies* [henceforth SNS] (Los Angeles, 1981), pp. 371-380.

Determination of specific gravity is another good indication of a coin's authenticity. For the measurement of specific gravity of ancient and medieval coins, the well-known method of Greek scientist Archimedes is very useful. The fineness of silver coins of Levon I and Hetoum I is very high (more than 90%) whereas those of Levon III and Levon IV is much less (around 50%). It must be kept in mind that precautions should be undertaken so that the result is accurate and repeatable. Internal spaces and external corrosion can cause problems—coin needs to be in good condition for a good result. According to Caley, "It is reliable for estimating silver in silver objects only when the proportion of silver is very high. No quantitative significance can be attached to the specific gravity of ancient objects composed of alloys of base metals".⁴

Perhaps the most important factor that will protect a collector against forgeries is the education of what constitutes a genuine coin. The student must be willing to invest a small amount of money in a good numismatic book relating to his subject. He should study, make himself familiar with the requirements of a genuine coin and know where to quickly locate metrological data for reference. This would be his strongest defense against becoming a victim of a deception scheme.

Last but not least, if possible, the student should have in his library for reference, literature and information revealing all about the existing imitations and forgeries. If the student is knowledgeable enough that another party is trying to deceive him, already he is alerted and to certain extent protected against becoming a victim. Forgeries of Armenian coins are not abundant since they do not command a very high price yet. There are sufficient forgeries and collectors should be alerted to it.

CATALOGUE OF FORGERIES

The coins catalogued below give an indication of the accumulated fake Armenian coins. Some of these coins are deliberately manufactured with built in "errors" to protect the manufacturer from the law. His defense would be imitating a coin for a souvenir and not exactly duplicating it. But there is a thin line between a coin manufactured to be only "display" or "souvenir" copy and a coin intended to deceive collectors. Today's innocent imitation manufactured for a display case can be tomorrow's deception coin in the hands of unscrupulous coin dealers. One of the best protection a collector can have against counterfeits is the knowledge and information on existing forgeries. The catalogue in hand is not intended to be a complete list of existing forgeries, but it should be used as a guide to help a collector in identifying if his coin is genuine or counterfeit. Readers having unpublished counterfeit Armenian coins are encouraged to contact the author or Armenian Numismatic Society.

Tigranes II tetradrachm⁵

1. The tetradrachm is an electrotpe. It is almost perfectly circular, the edge is nice smooth, rounded and some places it is flat. Black material similar to tar is used to give toning or patina effect. The detail workmanship is very crude. The coin apparently passed through rollers and flattened. The weight is too low. The die is copied⁶ from CAA, No. 29.

AR 27 mm, 12.67 grams

YN collection

⁴ E. R. Caley, "Estimation of Composition of Ancient Metal Objects; Utility of Specific Gravity Measurements," *Analytical Chemistry*, Vol. XXIV (1952), pp. 676-681.

⁵ There are numerous gold pieces struck and cast with the portrait of Tigranes II. Paul Z. Bedoukian concludes that all of them are forgeries without exception. Therefore, no need is seen to catalogue these fantasy pieces, imitations or souvenirs in this paper. The student is encouraged to read Bedoukian's "Gold Forgeries of Tigranes the Great of Armenia," *Museum Notes*, Vol. XI (1964), pp. 303-306, plate XLIX; also in SNS, pp. 72-76.

⁶ Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* [henceforth CAA] (London, 1978).

- Obv.: Bust of Tigranes II draped right, wearing Armenian tiara. A diadem knotted at the back encircles the head and falls down. Divided drapes cover the ear and neck. The tiara is decorated with an eight-pointed star flanked by two eagles. Fillet border.
- Rev.: Tyche of Antioch seated right on a rock, holding a palm-branch in right hand. At her feet, the river god Orontes is swimming right. To r. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ. To left downward ΤΙΓΓΑΝΟΥ. Behind Tyche, the letters Δ above M and in right field the letter H.

Tigranes II tetradrachm

2. The tetradrachm is one of the Greek counterfeits of Carl Wilhelm Becker.⁷ This is a flawless piece whose obverse portrait has never been seen on a genuine coin, and the reverse is absolutely a perfect execution, it should raise the suspicion of any potential buyer. The collector needs to do some research in reference material. He needs to check the weight, specific gravity, counterfeits, and other related literature to see if the coin is a forgery or genuine. If needed, the collector should seek the advice of an expert. This coin closely resembles two types of coins illustrated in Bedoukian: CAA, plates 2 and 3, Nos. 19 and 34, respectively. Note that for No. 19, Bedoukian calls the "letter Y" and in 34 "circle o." But both obverse and reverse of 19 and 34 look identical in illustrations. In CAA, No. 34, Bedoukian labels the last two coins "both forgeries" for Vienna Mekhitarist Museum tetradrachms.

Obv.: Similar to No. 1.

Rev.: Similar to No. 1. Monogram H on rock and circle o in right field.

Tigranes II tetradrachm

3. The tetradrachm is a modern forgery. Here again the obverse is unique and has never appeared on any other genuine tetradrachm. In addition to being of almost perfect execution there is also a star to the left of king's ear. This star has never been seen on any other genuine tetradrachm or drachm. The reverse monogram Δ is another giveaway. Philip Kinns⁸ has an extensive study and catalogue on this type of forgeries. CAA, No. 27.

Obv.: Similar to No. 1, but a small star to the left of ear.

Rev.: Similar to No. 1, but monogram Σ on rock, in right field, Δ.

Tigranes II tetradrachm

4. The tetradrachm is a modern forgery. The obverse is similar to the coin described in No. 3. However, the reverse is different where the Tyche holds the head of river god Orontes, decapitated body is below swimming in the river. Philip Kinns⁹ also discusses this type of coin forgery in his study. Both gold and silver specimens are modern forgeries. There is no satisfactory explanation¹⁰ why this modern forgery was conceived. CAA, No. 16.

Obv.: Similar to No. 3.

Rev.: Similar to No. 1, but monogram Σ on rock. Antioch Tyche is holding by hair head of river god Orontes instead of palm-branch. At her feet decapitated river god Orontes swimming.

Levon I gold

5. Recently numerous gold coins of King Levon I have surfaced on the market. Of one

⁷ G. F. Hill, *Becker the Counterfeiter* (reprint, Chicago, 1979), part I, p. 71. No. 121, plate VIII.

⁸ After the above lecture was delivered, P. Kinns published an article entitled "Myrina and Related Forgeries," *Museum Notes*, Vol. XXX (1985), pp. 61-63, No. 29, plate 27, where he discusses two types of Armenian forgeries.

⁹ *Ibid.*, No. 30.

¹⁰ Haji Toros discusses this coin extensively in "Tigran's Fantasy Enhanced," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Series I, Vol. IV (1978), pp. 125-129. The explanation is not considered satisfactory and not accepted by numismatists.

type at least several specimens are known and they are obvious forgeries. They are manufactured in Antakya, Turkey, by a jeweler and the workmanship are poor. Their average weight is 2.5 grams. P. Z. Bedoukian has illustrated and discussed this type of coin extensively.¹¹ The gold pieces are struck from the same dies that they have used to strike the silver coins Nos. 7 and 8.

AV24 mm, 3.01 gm, about 0.5 mm thick

NJ collection

Obv. and Rev.: Similar to No. 7.

Levon I tram

6. This type coins have been examined by Fr. Clement Sibilian¹² and he concludes that both specimens are cast and obvious forgeries. However, Sibilian states that the Venice (Fig. 6a) and Vienna (Fig. 6b) specimens have been cast from different dies.¹³ The Vienna specimen is much heavier than any other known tram of King Levon I. Bedoukian published the photograph of Vienna specimen (Fig. 6c) and notes that there are three specimens of this forgery, all from the same mold, although due to difficulties in casting, they appear somewhat different on first glance.¹⁴ (With the four letters in parentheses on the reverse side, presumably the counterfeiter had an Armenian date in mind, 3133?) Catalogued in CCA, No. 771.

Obv.: The king is seated on a throne ornamented with lions, wearing a crown and royal mantle on his shoulders. He holds a cross in his right hand and fleur-de-lis in his left. Clockwise Armenian inscription,

ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՌՈՐ ՀԱՅԱՍ

Rev.: A long cross between two lions rampant regardant. Clockwise Armenian inscription,

ԿԱՐՈՂՈՒԹԵՆ ԱՈ (ԳՃԼԳ)

Levon I tram

7. The coin is apparently struck with a modern press. In an effort to reduce weight the edges are cut and filed. The marks are visible. King's chest and knees have a high relief similar to the lions on the reverse. The workmanship is very crude. Definitely, the lettering is not representative of the Roupenian period. If nothing else even the novice should notice that the weight is very heavy. Also on the reverse, the second letter from the end of the last word "ԱՏՈՒԾՈՅ" (God) is engraved with "O" letter. This letter does not exist in the Armenian alphabet. This forgery is catalogued in CCA, No. 775.

AR23 mm, 3.15 grams

YN collection

Obv.: Similar to No. 6. Clockwise Armenian inscription,

ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՌ ԱՄԵՆ ՀԱՅՈՅ

Rev.: Similar to No. 6. Clockwise Armenian inscription,

ԿԱՐՈՂՈՒԹԵՆ ԱՏՈՒԾ Ո Յ

Levon I tram

8. This coin is identical to the fake coin described above, No. 7. It is struck exactly with the same dies. To eliminate the high relief, these silver pieces are apparently flattened between rollers frequently used by jewelers to straighten, flatten, and thin precious metals. Catalogued in CCA, No. 774.

AR22 mm, 2.23 grams

YN collection

¹¹ P. Z. Bedoukian, "Armenian Gold Coins of the Roupenian Dynasty," *Museum Notes*, Vol. XXV (1962), pp. 113-120, plate XXV; also in *SNS*, pp. 63-71; *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* [henceforth CCA] (New York, 1962; Danbury, CT, 1979), pp. 68-75, 226.

¹² Fr. C. Sibilian, *Classification of Roupenian Coins* (Vienna, 1892), pp. 11-12, Fig. 5, plate I, No. 12 (in Armenian).

¹³ It is interesting to read "Fr. Clement Sibilian's Letters Addressed to Fr. Abraham Charian, Venice," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Vol. XV (1989), p. 86, letter No. 5 (in Armenian), where Fr. Sibilian is discussing these coins.

¹⁴ P. Z. Bedoukian, CCA, p. 100.

Levon I tram

9. The coin is apparently struck with a modern press. In an effort to reduce weight the edges are cut and filed. The marks are visible. The workmanship is very crude. The lettering is definitely not representative of the Roupenian period. If nothing else, even the novice can observe immediately the fourth letter of king's name is spelled with "O" letter instead of "O" in Armenian. In the entire coinage of the Roupenian dynasty not a single silver coin exists engraved with "O" letter. Not listed in *CCA*.

AR23 mm, 3.15 grams

YN collection

Obv.: Similar to No. 6. Clockwise Armenian inscription,
 ԿԵՆՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ

Rev.: Similar to No. 6. Clockwise Armenian inscription,
 ԿԱՐՈՂՈՒՈՐ ԱՍՏՈՒԾՈՅ

Levon I tank

10. The coin is struck and not cast. The workmanship is very crude. The design is completely different from all other known tanks of Levon I. The line drawing of this coin was published by Sibilian (Fig. 10a). Three specimens of this coin are known in Vienna and Venice Mekhitarist Museums. According to Sibilian,¹⁵ the coin is made of yellowish bronze. Bedoukian¹⁶ concludes that it is obvious forgery struck with a very crudely made die and there are two varieties of this curious looking coin. Catalogued in *CCA*, Nos. 772, 773 (Figures 10b and 10c).

Obv.: Bearded leonine head of king facing, wearing crown with many dots. Clockwise Armenian inscription,
 ԿԵՆՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ

Rev.: Patriarchal cross. Clockwise Armenian inscription,
 ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ

Levon I tank

11. Examination with a powerful magnifying glass reveals this coin to be cast. Cracks on the edge are missing. Furthermore, on some letters, a cavity is formed due to trapped air bubbles. It is cast in a white alloy metal and copper plated, then covered with a black material resembling tar. During the process of cleaning the tar, the copper plating started coming off. Scratching the corrosion underneath the copper plating revealed the white alloy. The coin is copied from *CCA*, No. 746. This forgery is not listed in *CCA*.

AE28 mm, 4.83 grams

YN collection

Obv.: Similar to No. 10. Clockwise Armenian inscription,
 ԿԵՆՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ

Rev.: Patriarchal cross with two stars in the field. Clockwise Armenian inscription,
 ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ

Levon I tank

12. The coin is cast from the same dies as coin No. 11. This example is cast from lead, covered with black tar, and can be bent under pressure like soft metal. After cleaning the black tar coating, the white lead was revealed. Even without a magnifying glass, a trained eye can detect evidence of casting. This forgery is not listed in *CCA*.

AE28 mm, 7.79 grams

YN collection

Hetoum-Zabel tram

13. This coin is a cast piece. First it was covered with black tar. This black material should arouse a collector's suspicion. After cleaning all the black coating on one of them, it was immediately apparent that the silver piece was cast. First, the fabric did not resemble a struck coin by not having a smooth texture. Second, numerous "tiny holes" of trapped air bubbles exist on the coin. A good example of this hole is on the reverse, last

¹⁵ Sibilian, pp. 21-22, Fig. 9.

¹⁶ P. Z. Bedoukian, *CCA*, p. 101.

word, second letter from the end, upper portion of the right arm of the Armenian letter "A" (A). Also the edge is cut and filed; there are no edge cracks. Furthermore, the purchased lot had several similar pieces, all covered with the same black tar. A second piece was cleaned. Then the coins were studied under powerful microscope. The conclusion was the same. Normally this coin would catalogue CCA, No. 1083. It is not listed in CCA.

AR21 mm, 3.05 grams

YN collection

Obv.: On the left, queen to right but facing. On the right, Hetoum to left and facing. Both crowned and wearing royal vestments. Both holding the cross. Clockwise Armenian inscription,
 ԿԱՌՈՂՈԹ ԻՆՆ ԱՅ Է

Rev.: Lion walking to right, with left paw uplifted. Cross behind the lion. Clockwise inscription,
 ԺԵՐՈՒՄ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ

Hetoum-Kaikhosrew tram

14. The bilingual tram is a modern forgery. N. M. Lowick published this coin and brought to the attention of numismatic community.¹⁷ The execution seems to be carried on with some care but the lettering reveals numerous weaknesses on close examination. The Armenian lettering does not resemble very neat, orderly, and meticulous engraving as is customarily seen on Hetoum-Kaikhosrew bilingual trams. First, Hetoum's name is misspelled in Armenian, some characters do not even resemble Armenian letters, and others blundered. On the reverse, the Arabic letters have weaknesses also. The word sanah (year) is poorly rendered, and the word arba' (four) fades off in a strange way. At the left-hand end of the second line, the letter *mim* is not closed up. In the fourth line, the letter *qaf* in Kaiqobad is not properly closed up. Furthermore, the forgery is thicker than the originals and slightly convex on both sides. The forgery is dated A.H. 644. If nothing else, its heavy weight (3.19 and 3.80 gram) should make a collector suspicious. It is copied from a coin similar to author's¹⁸ ADABT, plates III, No. 36 and VIII, No. 54. This forgery is not listed in CCA.

AR22 mm, 3.19 grams

YN collection

Obv.: King on horseback to right, wearing a crown and holding in his right hand a sceptre which extends over his right shoulder. Clockwise inscription,
 ԺԵՐՈՒՄ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ

ضرب بيمس سنة اربع
 السلطان الاعظم
 غياث الدنيا والدين
 كيقباد بن كيقباد

Rev.: Arabic legend in four lines,

Hetoum I tank made of gold

15. This is an obvious cast gold piece. Perhaps a jeweler tried to manufacture it as a souvenir. Once it is in unscrupulous hands then they look for potential victims for their deception (as they tried on this writer for some astronomical price). The cast mold may have been copied from a coin catalogued CCA, No. 1321. However, the gold forgery is not listed in CCA.

Obv.: The king is seated on a throne adorned with lions. He holds the globus cruciger in his left hand and in his right a fleur-de-lis extending over his right shoulder. Circular Armenian inscription in clockwise fashion,
 ԺԵՐՈՒՄ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ

Rev.: Potent cross with four lines in four quarters. Circular inscription in clockwise fashion,
 ԺԵՐՈՒՄ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ

¹⁷ N. M. Lowick, "A Forgery of the Hetoum/Kaikhosrew Tram," *Numismatic Circular*, Vol. LXXXIV (June 1976), No. 6, p. 233; also in *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Series I. Vol. II (1976), p. 41.

¹⁸ Y. T. Nercessian, *Attribution and Dating of Armenian Bilingual Trams* (Los Angeles, 1983), pp. 24-26, plate III, No. 36 and for an enlarged illustration see plate VIII, No. 54.



Y. T. Nercessian, Counterfeit Armenian Coin Detection

A MEDAL OF THE ARMENIAN COLLEGE IN CALCUTTA

By Paul Z. Bedoukian, Ph. D.

Although the striking of Armenian coins ceased with the collapse of the Roupenian dynasty in 1375, the issuance of medals requiring only the efforts of an institution or an individual continued through the ensuing centuries.

It is unfortunate that so few Armenian medals have appeared in publications. In his classic work *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature*, Y. Nercessian¹ lists nearly 1300 references of which merely 100 refer to medals, including a handful struck outside of Armenia.

An interesting silver medal which came to the writer's possession some time ago was struck by the Armenian College in Calcutta established in 1826 (Plate III, No. 1). According to the *Armenian Encyclopedia*,² the Armenian colony in Calcutta was in existence before the coming of the British. Armenian tombstones have been found dated 1630 and 1648. In 1724, the colony was sufficiently large and prosperous to build the St. Nazareth Armenian Church. In 1820, the Armenians published a newspaper and continued publication of other books and periodicals. Some schools and cultural organizations are in operation to this day. By 1979, however, through assimilation or dispersion, the count of Armenians living in Calcutta numbered barely 180.

The medal under discussion was issued by the Armenian College to be given to students on special occasions. On the reverse is a wreath around the border surrounding a blank space in the center for inscriptions befitting the occasion. In the blank space of our medal is inscribed "29-12-24," obviously the date of the presentation of the medal, over the word "FLY," the meaning of which remains obscure.

The obverse is quite interesting: The legend reads: (above) "ARMENIAN COLLEGE" and (below) CALCUTTA. The design in the center represents the coat of arms of Armenia.

The representation of the coat of arms is in itself worthy of special study. Several designs of coats of arms of Armenia have appeared in publications during the past century. None of these is official, of course, except the one on passports issued by the independent Republic of Armenia. S. Vratzian,³ in his volume *Republic of Armenia* shows another version, again different from the one seen on our medal.

Above the shield of the coat of arms is a crown adorned with a cross on the top, undoubtedly denoting the Christian nature of the crown. The crown itself as usual is adorned with precious stones.

In the center of the shield is a circle portraying Mt. Ararat, with Noah's Ark.

In the upper right hand quarter of the shield are figures of the sun, the legendary dragon (Vishap) and flames. This is indeed a mythical presentation of the beliefs in prehistoric Armenia. In ancient times, the Persians and Armenians worshipped the fire and the sun. The cult of the dragons was also practiced in Armenia and to this day many large stones in Armenia are called Vishaps. The pictorial representation here, however, is that of a winged creature with the head of a serpent. It should be recalled that

¹ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature* (Los Angeles, 1984).

² *Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia* - Հայկական սովետական հանրագիտարան (Yerevan, 1979), Vol. V, p. 178.

³ S. Vratzian, *Republic of Armenia* - Հայաստանի Հանրապետություն (Paris, 1928).

the concept of the sun God conquering the Vishap dates back to the earliest times of Egyptian history.

The lower right hand quarter shows the moon, nine 5-pointed stars and the head and shoulders of a lamb. The significance of this is not clear. The third or lower left hand corners show a seated lion and a towel or a sheet of linen with the imprint of a head. This lion was the insignia of the Roupenian kings of Cilician Armenia and the imprint of a head refers to the legend mentioned by Moses of Khorene: "Anan, Abgar's messenger, brought his letter with the Saviour's portrait from life, which has remained in the city of Edessa up to the present."⁴

The fourth, upper left-hand corner shows the figure of an eagle, the emblem of the Artaxiad dynasty, and an edifice with three spires. The significance of this structure is not apparent, but may refer to a building of the pre-Christian era.

The shield is held by two lions with their heads turned backwards. The two lions wear different crowns. The one on the left wears a squarish crown possibly related to the crowns seen on the coins of the Artaxiads. The crown of the right lion is reminiscent of the crowns worn by more modern kings, perhaps those of Cilician Armenia.

The background of these decorations consists of two large flags on each side, a lance on the left (French polaxe, 15th century) and another lance (a double axe) on the right.⁵ Nearest the crown on either side are two indistinct weapons of the medieval period.

It is obvious that the medal was designed by a knowledgeable person, possibly a teacher of history at the Armenian College.

The medal is made of silver, and weighs 28.65 grams. Its diameter is 38 mm. and thickness is 2.5 mm.

Possibly, some of these medals could have been struck in gold or in copper. It may be of interest to write to the Armenian College in Calcutta requesting any information they may be able to provide.

ԿԱԼԿԱԹԱՅԻ ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ԳՈԼԷԺԻ ՄԵԴԱԼԸ

[Ամփոփում]

Կալկաթա քաղաքին մէջ հոծ հայութիւն մը ապրած է: Հայկական գերեզմանաքարեր կան, որոնք թուագրուած են 1630 և 1648: Ներկայիս, հազիւ 180 հայ կարելի ըլլայ գտնել հոն:

Կալկաթայի հայկական գոլէճը հիմնադրուած է 1826 թուին: Վարժարանի թողարկած մեդալին ետքը սկզբին պարսապ կոխուած է (Տախտակ III, թիւ 1): Ըստ երևոյթի, յատուկ առիթներու ուսանողներուն պարգևատրուելու նպատակով ձեռնարկուած մեդալ մըն է: Ետևի թուագրութիւնն է «29-12-24», զոր արձանագրուած է «FLY» բառին վրայ, որու նպատակը անկայտ կը մնայ:

Մեդալի երեսին վրայի շրջագրութիւնն է «ARMENIAN COLLEGE» և «CALCUTTA»: Կեդրոնը դրուագուած է Հայաստանի զինանշանը: Վառանքի վրան գետեղուած է թագ մը: Կեդրոնը, շրջանակին միջև կը ճշմարտի Արարատ լեռը և Նոյի տապանը: Վերը աջին պատկերուած է արևն ու վիշապ մը, վարը աջին՝ լուսինն ու աստղերը և գառնուկի մը ուռը, վարը ձախին՝ նստած առիւծ մը և Յիսուսի նկարով անձնոց մը, վերը ձախին՝ արծիւ մը և երեք սրածայր գագաթով շէնք մը:

Վառանք բոնուած է երկու առիւծներու թաթերով: Իսկ վառանքի ետին կան դրօշակներ, ճիգակներ և միջնադարեան գէնքեր: Մեդալը շինուած է արծաթէ, 28.65 գրամ, 38 մմ տրամագիծ և 2.5 մմ հաստութիւն:

ՃԱՐԵՀ ՊՏՈՒԿԵԱՆ

⁴ R. W. Thomson, *Moses Khorenatsi, History of the Armenians* (Cambridge, MA, 1978).

⁵ *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, Vol. 7 (New York, 1986), p. 324, Scribners.

A MEDAL HONORING FRESNO'S ARMENIAN COMMUNITY

By Armen Y. Nercessian

Historical Background

In commemoration of its 45th anniversary the Fresno Numismatic Society, founded in 1946, has issued silver and gold plated bronze medals dedicated to the Armenian community of Fresno. Fresno's Armenian community is one of the oldest in America and the members of that community have contributed both as individuals and as a community to not only Fresno and California but to the United States and the greater Armenian population.

Interestingly, Armenian immigration into America began in 1618 when Martin the Armenian came to Jamestown, Virginia, as a member of the Virginia Company of London. In 1653 George the Armenian and another, both of whom had "a high reputation in their native land for their skill and experience in raising silk worm," also arrived.¹ However, the first mass immigration to America began when Armenians arrived sporadically from Constantinople and Western Armenia during the nineteenth century. This was due to the work of American missionaries in the Ottoman Empire. They usually came to America as single individuals, usually to attend college or seminary and few actually settled.² A new wave of immigrants came because of the Turkish persecutions before World War I, during the time of the massacre of 300,000 Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1894 to 1896 under Sultan Abdul Hamid II.³ More than 4,000 came each year to the United States during that time. Another group followed the 1909 massacre of 30,000 Armenians in Adana, Cilicia, which prepared the way for the Armenian Genocide of 1915.⁴ These immigrants usually travelled in family units and settled permanently in the United States. During World War I Armenians that survived the Genocide, but were otherwise displaced, came to the United States. As of June, 1917, 55,057 Armenians immigrated to the United States. By 1923, communities established themselves in New York, Fresno, Boston, Worcester, Detroit, Chicago, Philadelphia, West Hoboken, Jersey City, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Providence, Saint Louis, San Francisco, Lowell, Lawrence, Lynn, Hartford, Bridgeport, and New Haven.⁵ California around the Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley became the great center for the Armenian community in America.

The first Armenians to settle in Fresno were Hagop and Garabed Seropian in 1881. They opened a general store and eventually entered the fruit packing business. As a consequence of their letters, 40 Armenians left Marsovan, the Seropian's hometown, in 1883 and settled in the San Joaquin Valley.⁶ Yet Armenians arrived not only from their ancient communities in Asia Minor but also from the East Coast, being lured to the area because of its similarity in climate and fertility to the Armenian countryside. However, by 1894 there were an estimated 360 Armenians in Fresno. This was to rise dramatically to an estimated 3,000 as a result of the Hamidian massacres.⁷

In Fresno, those with money invested in land or opened businesses. Others worked as manual laborers. Nevertheless, because of their business acumen and work ethic the Armenians in and around Fresno achieved considerable success by the time of World War I. Besides owning many businesses in town, they also helped pioneer many of the agricultural enterprises of the area, notably in the grape and raisin industry, but also

¹ James H. Tashjian, *The Armenians of the United States and Canada* (Boston, 1946), p. 6.

² Gary A. Kulhanjian, *The Historical and Sociological Aspects of Armenian Immigration to the United States 1890 to 1930* (San Francisco, 1975), p. 47.

³ Fredrick D. Greene, *Armenian Massacres or the Sword of Mohammed* (New York, 1896).

⁴ Christopher J. Walker, *Armenia: The Survival of a Nation* (New York, 1980).

⁵ Vartan M. Malcom, *The Armenians in America* (Boston, 1919), p. 75.

⁶ David Waldstreicher, *The Armenian Americans from The Peoples of North America* (New York, 1989), p. 59.

⁷ Robert Mirak, *Tom Between Two Lands/ Armenians in America, 1890 to World War I* (Cambridge, 1983), p. 113.

the animal and poultry, hay, Armenian cucumber, watermelon, berry, and even tobacco industries.⁸

There has been cases of prejudice towards Armenian immigrants and Armenians have been mistreated and discriminated against like other minority groups. The most significant case of discrimination on a national level is evidenced by the case of the *United States vs. Cartozian*, when the United States sued for the annulment of the naturalization papers of Tatos O. Cartozian in 1925 because Armenians were of Asiatic descent. On July 27, 1925, in Portland, Oregon, District Court Judge C. Wolverton, after hearing anthropologists and historians, allowed Cartozian and Armenians to be naturalized because they were of European Alpine descent.⁹ Most other overt cases of racial discrimination take place in Fresno. Armenians were prohibited from owning land through covenants incorporated to the deed, and Fresno's Armenians were also excluded from certain social groups and churches.¹⁰ Discrimination also included insulting and derogatory ethnic stereotypes imposed on the population.

However, currently much has changed. The population of Armenians in America approaches nearly a million, and the population of Armenians in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley area is somewhere near 40,000. Nevertheless, the Greater Los Angeles area has supplanted Fresno as the dominant Armenian center. Yet at the Fresno County Courthouse, by the intersection of Tulare and M streets, the bronze statue of the legendary Armenian folk hero David of Sassoun (*Sassountzi Davit*) was erected in honor of the contribution of the Armenians to the city's history. The statue was executed in 1970 by sculptor Varaz Samuelian, an inhabitant of Fresno who moved from his native Yerevan, Armenia as a consequence of World War II.

The medallions

As stated previously, the Fresno Numismatic Society had the unique idea of dedicating its 45th anniversary medal to the Armenian community of Fresno (Plate III, No. 2). The medals were issued in silver and gold plated bronze. Mrs. Ruth Phillips, Fresno Numismatic Society representative, conceived the idea and design of the medal. Pressed Metal Products of Vancouver, British Columbia, cut the dies and transformed the conceptual design into reality.

- Obverse: The imposing statue of David of Sassoun on a horse to right. David holds a sword pointed downward with his right hand. Horse's hind legs are mounted on a trapezoid shaped base. Horse's tail falls back and touches the ground behind the trapezoid base. Circular inscription, "FRESNO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, 45TH ANNIVERSARY," below it "1946-1991." In the right field the four lined dedication reads, "HONORING FRESNO'S ARMENIAN HERITAGE." In the left field is the sculptor's signature, Varaz.
- Reverse: On the back of the medal is the logo of "FRESNO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, ORGANIZED 1946." The map of California, divided into numerous sections, with "Fresno" in the middle, dominates the reverse. To the right of the map is the motto of the Society "THE HOBBY OF COINS, CURRENCY AND MEDALS." To the left of California map, on two lines, is "A.N.A. 12477, C.S.N.A. 796," membership numbers of Fresno Numismatic Society with American Numismatic Association and California State Numismatic Association.
- Rim.: The engraving on the edge reads, ".999 silver 9MP." Note that there is no engraving on the rim of gold plated bronze medal. "9MP" represents the three initials of Pressed Metal Products.
- Data: Diameter 38 mm, thickness 2.5 mm, silver 31.91 grams, gold plated bronze 22.12 grams.

⁸ *ibid.*, pp.119-122.

⁹ "Decides for Armenians," *New York Times*, (28 July, 1925), 12:8.

¹⁰ Mirak, pp.144-146.

THREE UNREPORTED TETRDRACHMS OF TIGRANES THE GREAT

By Levon A. Saryan

The silver tetrdrachms of Tigranes II the Great (95-56 B.C.) are, along with those of his son Artavasdes, the largest and intrinsically the most valuable of all ancient and medieval Armenian coins. They have been highly prized by collectors for their rarity and aesthetic excellence ever since they were first introduced to the numismatic world by Spanhem in 1664 and 1671.¹

Various attempts have been made in the past to classify the coinage of Tigranes, by MacDonald,² Garabetian,³ Haji Toros,⁴ Bedoukian,⁵ and most recently by Foss.⁶ Generally, numismatists subdivide their classifications based on differences in style, reverse inscriptions, and Greek letter monograms appearing on the reverse of the coins. Suffice it to say that Bedoukian's efforts in this regard represent the most comprehensive for the large number of specimens recorded (more than 450, of which nearly 200 are silver tetrdrachms of Tigranes), including examples held by the world's principal public and private collections. In this writer's opinion, Bedoukian provides the most plausible attribution of mint cities, and his classification scheme offers the advantages of logical arrangement and comprehensibility for the average collector. Nevertheless, many questions about the Artaxiad coinage remain unanswered.

It is unusual that, although 40 types and varieties of Tigranes tetrdrachms are known to numismatic scholarship, most of the known examples are restricted to one of three different principal types (Bedoukian Nos. 17, 20, and 21). The comparative rarity of Tigranes tetrdrachms is related to the fact that very few excavations of Armenian sites have been allowed in Western Armenia. Another factor to be kept in mind is that these coins have been popular with collectors for more than a century, and many examples in private collections remain unrecorded. Thus there is a good reason to anticipate that new varieties will be revealed as hoards are unearthed and old collections are dispersed.

A recently discovered hoard of Tigranes silver pieces, reportedly numbering about 80 coins, has reached the numismatic market. This article describes three previously unreported Tigranes tetrdrachms obtained for the author's collection in November 1990, part of a group of eight which is believed to have originated from this hoard. This report should interest researchers attempting to explicate the series.

The Tiara

The principal design features of the silver coinage of Tigranes are remarkably consistent from specimen to specimen. Tigranes is always shown on the obverse, facing right, wearing a unique tiara which is characteristic of the ancient Armenian series.⁷ The reverse designs are restricted to only two principal types, a statue of the city goddess Tyche seated facing either right (the common "Antioch" type) or left (the extremely rare "Damascus" type). Likewise, only two basic variations in the Greek-lettered inscription are found, either "KING TIGRANES" (common tetrdrachms), or "KING OF KINGS TIGRANES" (extremely rare for tetrdrachms).

The tiara of Tigranes typically shows a prominent, centrally-placed eight-pointed sun or star flanked by two eagles back to back with heads twisted towards the sun. Only two very rare varieties on this theme have been reported: the "comet" type, in which one of the ray of the star is ex-

¹ See Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature* (Los Angeles, 1984), citations 510 and 685.

² George MacDonald, "The Coinage of Tigranes I," *Arm.N.J.*, Ser. I, Vol. V (1979), No. 2, pp. 13-22. Reprinted from *Numismatic Chronicle* of 1902.

³ Berj M. Garabetian, "The Coinage of Tigranes the Great," *Arm.N.J.*, Ser. I, Vol. III (1977), No. 2, pp. 13-16. Reprinted from *Bazmavep* of 1952.

⁴ Haji Toros, "Tigran's Tetrdrachms," *Arm.N.J.*, Vol. II (1976), No. 1, pp. 5-8. Reprinted from *SAN* of 1970.

⁵ Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* (London, 1978), pp. 14-16, 47-55.

⁶ Clive Foss, "The Coinage of Tigranes the Great: Problems, Suggestions, and a New Find," *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. 146 (1986), pp. 19-66, esp. pp. 19-38.


⁷ Y. T. Nercessian, "The Evolution of the Armenian Tiara," *Arm.N.J.*, Vol. XI (1985), No. 1, pp. 2-12.

tended to form a comet and the eagles are deleted; and the Damascus type, which shows the usual star with one eagle instead of two.

Coin 1 reported below is highly unusual in that the central star has six rays or points rather than eight. The writer has been unable to locate any other Tigranes coins in the numismatic literature with the tiara showing a six-pointed star.⁹ In this writer's opinion, the star appearing on the tiara was intended to be the most important element of the design; its central placement draws and focuses the viewer's attention. The star may represent the Mithraic Sun God,⁹ and was undoubtedly of deep religious significance. The reason for this deviation from the normal depiction is unknown. It may be a reflection of the craftsmanship of a particular die engraver, or less likely the product of a hitherto unknown mint. It seems unlikely, however, that a six-pointed star reflects a different symbolism than the usual eight-pointed depiction.




Reverse Monograms

The reverse monograms on Tigranes silver coins are used in the various classification schemes, since these are easily identified differences from coin to coin. In the Seleucid series, monograms may represent dates, mint officinae, city mint marks,¹⁰ or may have undetermined significance. A satisfactory interpretation of these symbols is not presently available.¹¹ Accordingly, a complete corpus of the monograms used and their associations continues to be of importance for Armenian numismatics.

Coins 2 and 3 below bear a hitherto unreported variety of reverse monogram, which appears on the rock beneath the seated statue of Tyche. The monogram is a circle with five internal lines, appearing as a cross with an extra line within a circle, resembling a wheel with five spokes or alternatively, a pie with five unequal slices. The  monogram could be interpreted as a Greek letter Theta superimposed on a Y.

Examination of these two coins show their reverses to be related to Bedoukian 22. The reverses, while different from each other and Bedoukian's illustration, both show "elongated fingers" on the hand holding the palm-branch (one shows also a ribbon hanging from the hand) that possibly represents the signature of a specific die cutter. The obverses of the two coins described differ from Bedoukian's illustrated example, but do appear to derive from the same die.

Catalogue

1. Tetradrachm of Tigranes II, similar to Bedoukian 21 or 23, except that the obverse tiara shows a six pointed star  in the center of the band instead of the typical eight-pointed star. Peaks of the tiara are mostly off the edge of the coin, but appear to be formed from triangles rather than beads. The facial features of the king are realistic. The reverse monogram is as indicated for Bedoukian 21, Weight 15.27 grams, specific gravity 9.62 (49% silver),¹² diameter 26-27 mm, die axis \nearrow , black patina, preservation VF. (Plate III, Fig. 3.a)
2. Tetradrachm of Tigranes II, similar to Bedoukian 21 or 22. Obverse die linked to coin 3. reverse monograms:  on rock beneath statue, and Σ near swimmer's feet. A dot appears in the field to the right of the palm-branch. The outstretched hand of the statue has "elongated fingers" and appears to be holding a hanging ribbon in addition to the palm-branch. Weight 15.37 grams, specific gravity 9.83 (62% silver), diameter 26 mm, die axis \uparrow , silver patina, preservation F+. (Plate III, Fig. 3.b)
3. Tetradrachm of Tigranes II, similar to Bedoukian 22. Obverse die linked to coin 2. Statue has "elongated fingers" but does not hold ribbon. Reverse monogram  on rock; no other monograms or field marks are visible, although a monogram near the feet of the swimmer may be off the edge of the flan. Weight 15.08 grams, specific gravity 9.80 (60% silver), diameter 26-27 mm, die axis \uparrow , silver patina, preservation VF-. (Plate III, Fig. 3.c)

⁹ Bedoukian, op. cit.; Foss, op. cit.; Nercessian, "The Evolution..."; Toros, op. cit.

⁹ Nercessian, "The Evolution...", p. 11.

¹⁰ Foss, pp. 27-28.

¹¹ Terenik Nercessian, "Artaxiad Armenian Coin Monograms," *Arm.N.J.*, Vol. XIV (1988), No. 1, pp. 7-10.

¹² Silver contents were estimated from specific gravities determined on a five-place Sartorius analytical balance, assuming a binary silver-copper alloy. For details see Table VI in Earle R. Caley, "Estimation of Composition of Ancient Metal Objects," *Analytical Chemistry*, Vol. 24 (April 1952), No. 4, pp. 676-681.

SOME REMARKS ON THE POLITICAL PORTRAITURE OF ARSAMES, KING OF SOPHENE

The question of political portraiture pertains not only to the field of political history but also to the field of art history and particularly numismatics. Unfortunately, one of the most fascinating questions, whether or not, and to what degree, political portraiture depicts the realistic portrait of a certain ruler with all its characteristic traits (as in some Hellenistic and many Roman political portraits), or whether it mainly serves to spread political messages, or whether it merely symbolizes the status of an enhanced, almost divine authority (as in late Roman, Byzantine, and particularly Sasanian "portraits"), is not often analyzed. Political historians, and even art historians, often neglect the wealth of numismatic sources, while numismatists seem to be reluctant to research any deeper into that subject matter, perhaps because "true portrait coinage is like scattered but welcome oases in a vast Sahara....," to borrow the words of a great modern numismatist, Edward T. Newell. Another reason is that there is no such thing as a "true political portrait," since all political portraiture from the antiquity to the present also contains ideology and is a medium to transmit messages to the masses.¹

Recently, an extremely rare one chalcus piece of the type "king's head/winged thunderbolt" of Arsames I (ca. 240 B.C.), King of Sophene, a sub-kingdom of Greater Armenia, appeared on the European market. Its very fine preservation and good artistic quality enables some remarks to be made on this portrait (Plate III, No. 4). The hitherto apparently unique piece of that type from the collection of the American Numismatic Society seems to be of such a poor condition as not to permit any detailed analysis; even some of the inscription on it seems to be uncertain, not to mention the king's portrait. The newly acquired copper piece mentioned above,



Fig. 1. King Arsames I, with winged thunderbolt reverse

- Obverse: Head of King Arsames right. He is clean shaven and wears a conical head-dress with tight earflaps. The headdress is ornamented with pearls all along its edges.
- Reverse: In the center is a winged thunderbolt with five rays. Inscription to left upward ΒΑΣΙΛ[ΕΥΣ]/ΑΡΣΑ[ΜΟΥ]; to right upward ΘΕΟ[ΣΕΒΟΥΣ] or ΘΕΟ[Υ].
- Data: AE 17 mm, 3.96 grams, die axis orientation ↑ ➔ Author's collection

¹ For example the idealized portraits of modern politicians with their stereotyped "keep smiling" to indicate an optimistic outlook — particularly during election periods. We also know the grim face of modern military dictators which signifies that no opposition will be tolerated.

Research on political portraiture of antiquity, although a rather new field, has brought amazing results; however, it has mainly concentrated on Roman imperial portraiture. It is self-evident that for those centuries when coins were virtually the only means for official mass-communication, replacing newspapers, television, telecommunication, etc., rulers and dynasts of those days used their coins for political propaganda.

Of the known total of approximately eight coins of different types ascribed to Arsames I, five have been published and illustrated by the dean and architect of Armenian numismatics, Paul Z. Bedoukian, in his book on the coinage of Sophene and Commagene.² Unfortunately, only one of them, namely a two chalcus piece in the Bedoukian collection, is of such quality of the Hellenistic art of portraiture as to enable comparisons and conclusions.³ Comparing Bedoukian's specimen and the newly acquired piece to the portrait of the royal predecessor and dynastic founder Sames (ca. 260 B.C.),⁴ we see that the two Arsames coins are fundamentally different depictions, and that the Bedoukian Arsames resembles Sames. The "Arsames" of Bedoukian's two chalcus piece shows the portrait of a youthful man with rather chubby cheeks, a somewhat small mouth, a very delicate straight nose, and straight eyebrows. The characteristic straight nose and the general physiognomic features are also to be seen in the portrait of Sames; although it seems as if the engraver of the portrait of Bedoukian's "Arsames" coin aimed toward a more youthful idealization. However, the portrait of the newly acquired Arsames coin shows a different personality: a vigorous face with tight cheek and a dominant, rather strong nose, very slightly hooked and slightly aquiline on the tip (quite common with satrapal and particularly Parthian portraits), full lips of a rather large mouth and a vigorous chin, and slightly arched eyebrows. Of course, the inscription on both of the Arsames coins indicates clearly that both of them are coins issued by Arsames I.

This leads us to a phenomenon not at all exceptional in ancient numismatics, where the direct successor to the dynastic founder, or even all rulers of a dynasty, continue to issue the portrait of the royal founder while putting (or even omitting) their own names on their coins. Typical examples of that practice are the Ptolemaic series where we find the portrait of the dynastic founder Ptolemy I Soter (323-285 B.C.), for roughly three centuries, while individual portraits of the actually reigning kings are very rare exceptions.

Another example, geographically closer to the Armenian realms, is the Pergamum kingdom of the Attalids. A variation of this practice is also to be found with the Parthian Arsacids, politically and culturally so closely related to Armenia and the Armenian dynasties. The rulers of that dynasty kept to the picture of the enthroned dynastic founder, Arsaces (238-21 B.C.), on the reverses of their coins for almost five hundred years. We also know of another practice with Artaxias II of Greater Armenia, who, although reigning for ten years, apparently only put the name of his grandfather, Tigranes II, or his father's name, Artavasdes (who was betrayed by Anthony and assassinated by Cleopatra), on his coin. However, existing Artaxias II coins, being poorly preserved, do not permit any certain conclusions about the actual portraiture used.

Beside portraiture and script there are also some other important criteria used to distinguish rulers of antiquity: the royal insignias, particularly the royal headdress. Fortunately, many rulers of the ancient period practiced a habit completely contrary to modern dynasts who rather cling to the ancestral crown as one of the basic insignias of legitimacy. Not so the antique dynasts, who, whenever wearing a headdress at all, were eager to differentiate it from those of their predecessors, either by slight variations in construction and style, or even by complete change. In fact, there are some important antique series for which the dynastic chronology is based mainly on variations of the royal headdress, e.g. the more than four hundred year Sasanian series. When we examine the headdresses on all coins ascribed to Arsames I, we find two types. While all are of conical construction, those with a royal portrait similar to Sames have a draping covering the neck but no draping covering the ear completely, sometimes even showing part

² Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Armenian Kingdoms of Sophene and Commagene* (Los Angeles, 1985).

³ *ibid.*, p. 32, plate I, No. 2b.

⁴ *ibid.*, p. 32, plate I, No. 1.

of the ear with an earring. However, the two known one chalcus pieces of the type "King's head/winged-thunderbolt," show a headdress with a straight draping covering the ear completely. Furthermore, it seems that only on these two coins the conical tiara is adorned with exceptionally large pearls all along the edge and with a big pearl on the very top of the conical tiara.

Portraiture and royal headdress seem to indicate that, during the probably short reign of Arsames I, only the type with "winged thunderbolt" on the reverse represents the effigy of the ruling king, while on the other few specimens extant the portrait of the dynastic founder, Sames, has been perpetuated. Whether that was done deliberately, as part of the internal policy of the newly ascended king (out of piety and/or political reasons of legitimacy), or whether it happened so because the die-cutter lacked an immediate model of the newly ascended ruling king, is beyond our knowledge.⁵

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ԱՎԵՆԱՐԱՆԵՐ ԾՈՓՔԻ ԹԱԳԱՌՈՐ
ԱՐՇԱՍՏԻ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ԴԻՄԱՆԿԱՐԻՆ ՎՐԱՅ
[Ամփոփում]

Վերջերս երոպական չուկայի վրայ յայտնաբերուեցաւ Արշամ Ա-ի մէկ քաղկոսնոց բրոնզէ դրամ մը, որու ետին կը նշմարուի Թեաւոր կայծակ մը (Տախտակ III, Թիւ 4): Այս դրամին շատ լաւ պահպանուած միճակը կ'արտօնէ հեղինակին մի քանի դիտողութիւններ կատարել արեւայական դիմանկարին վրայ: Ծարղ ծանօթ եզակի նմուշը որ կը պատկանի Ամերիկեան Դրամագիտական Ընկերակցութեան աշխարհի միճակ մը ունի, որ կարելի չէ խորագրութիւնը ընթերցանել և արքայի դիմաքանդակը ուսումնասիրել: Խնդրոյ առարկայ հեղինակին հաւաքածոյին պատկանող քաղկոսը ունի 17 մմ տրամագիծ և 3.98 գրամ ծանրութիւն: Երեսին վրայ պատկերուած է Արշամի կիսանդրին դէպի աջ դարձած: Արքան ամիւրած է և հագած արածայր կոնաձև գզակ մը, որ ականջակալներ ունի: Դրամի ետին դրուագրուած է հինգ ճառագայթով Թեաւոր կայծակ մը: Յունատառ խորագրութիւնը, ձախէն դէպի վեր ΒΑΣΙΛ[ΕΩΣ]/ΑΡΣΑ[ΜΟΥ], արջէն դէպի վեր ΘΕΟ[ΣΕΒΟΥΣ] կամ ΘΕΟ[Υ]:

Արշամ Ա-ի ծանօթ բոլոր ութ դրամներէն հինգը հրատարակուած են Զարեհ Պտուկեանի կողմէ: Ասոնցմէ միայն մէկը, Պտուկեանի հաւաքածոյէն, չափազանց լաւ միճակ մը ունի և կարելի է ուսումնասիրել Արշամի դիմանկարը: Պտուկեանի դրամին վրայի Արշամը ունի երիտասարդ անձ, կլորադէմ ալոյր, փոքր բերան, նուրբ և շիտակ քիթ, Հեղինակի դրամին վրայի Արշամը ունի տարբեր դիմանկար մը եռանդուն դէմք, սեղմ ալոյր, գերակշռող կեռ քիթ, մեծ բերանի մը պատկանող լեցուն շրթներ, եռանդուն կզակ և թեթև մը ոլորուն յօքեր: Երկու դրամներուն ալ վրայի արձանագրութիւնները կը յիշատակեն թէ դրամները կը պատկանին Արշամ Թագաւորին:

Դիմանկարներէ գատ կայ նաև գզակներու ձևերուն ուսումնասիրութիւնը: Ասոնք ունին երկու տեսակ կոնաձև գզակներ՝ մին կը նմանի Սամէսի դրամներուն և ունի վզկալ, բայց ոչ ականջակալ: Միւրը՝ մէկ քաղկոսնոց կտորին ականջակալը ամբողջովին կը ծածկէ ականջը: Նաև միայն այս երկու դրամները զարդարուած են բազառապէս խոշոր մարգարիտներով:

Դիմանկարներն ու գզակները կը նշեն թէ Արշամ Ա-ի գահակալութեան թոյլարկուած թեաւոր կայծակ ունեցող դրամը կը ներկայացնէ Արշամի իսկական դիմանկարը, մինչդեռ միւսները շանացած են յաւերժացնել Մովսէս Թագաւորութեան հիմնադիր Սամէսի դրամին վրայի դիմանկարը:

ԻՄԱՆՈՒԷԼ ՍԵՐՈՒՈԳԵԱՆ, Ph.D.

⁵ The author is inclined to believe in the deliberate continuation of the Sames-portrait during the primary period of the newly ascended king (a practice not unusual with Hellenistic rulers eager to stabilize their ascendancy), later on replacing it by his own effigy. Arsames also tries to link his rule to that of his predecessor by using a similar epitheton indicating to be ΘΕΟΣΕΒΟΥ (pious) or ΘΕΟΥ (divine). The epitheton of Sames as published in Bedoukian (see above, note 2, p. 32) as ΘΕΟΣΕΒΟΥΣ/ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΑΙΟΥ is either misread or misprinted as it should read ΔΙΚΑΙΟΥ (meaning, just). For this information the author is indebted to Dr. Philip Brize, Archaeological Institute, University of Heidelberg.

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

- 4 BEDOUKIAN Paul Z. *A Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes the Great and a Hoard of Artaxiad Coins*, by Paul Z. Bedoukian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, Special Publication, No. 7, 1991, 30 pp., 2 pls. Bilingual in English and Armenian.

Bedoukian catalogues two hoards belonging to ancient Armenia. One hundred thirty-three copper coins, all attributed to Tigranes the Great (95-55 B.C.), are catalogued in the first hoard. They are classified under the following headings: Tyche of Antioch, Heracles, Cornucopiae, Nike, letter "A" to left of king's head, head of wheat, overstruck coins, and unpublished coins. Thirty-four silver and copper coins are catalogued in the second hoard. The coins are attributed to the following rulers of Armenia: Tiribazus (400-384 B.C.), Mithridates of Armenia (163-130 B.C.); Commagenian coins including rulers Arsames, Gallinicus and Epiphanus; Tigranes I, Tigranes II, and Artavasdes II.

Առաջին դրամագլխին մէջ, Պտոլեմեան կը դասաւորէ հարիւր երեսուն երեք պղնձեայ դրամներ փերագրուած՝ Տիգրան Մեծին (95-55 Ն.Ք.)։ Դրամները ցուցակագրուած են հետեւեալ խորագրերու ներքեւ՝ Աստիւղի Բախտ, Վահագն, ամսթեղիւր, Ճաղթմանկ, «Ա» տառը արքայի գլխու ձախին, ցորնի հատիկ, կրկնադրոշմուած դրամներ և անտիպ դրամներ։ Երկրորդ դրամագլխին մէջ Պտոլեմեան կը դասաւորէ երեսուն չորս արծաթեայ ու պղնձեայ դրամներ, որոնք փերագրուած են Հայաստանի հետեւեալ տիրակալներուն՝ Տիգրիսագոս (400-384 Ն.Ք.), Հայաստանի Միհրդատ արքան (163-130 Ն.Ք.), կոմմազենեան դրամներ, որոնք կը պարունակեն Արշամ, Կալլինիկոս և Եպիփանոս։ Տիգրան Ա, Տիգրան Բ և Արտասազը Բ։ Եթն

- 5 MOUSHEGHIAN, Kh. A. Siwnik'i dramatan gandzë [The Coin Hoard of Siwniq Mint] - Սիւնիքի դրամատան գանձը, գրեց՝ Նաչատուր Մուշեղեան. *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. CIV (1990), pp. 104-183. In Armenian.

The coin hoard consists of 1924 silver coins. However, only 1224 coins are described in the catalogue. The hoard was discovered in April 1986, in the village of Siwniq, Sissian region, Soviet Armenia. The hoard is divided into the following subgroups: Sassanian kingdom (sixth to seventh century), Pre-Reform Arab-Sassanian (seventh to eighth century), 'Abbasid governors of Tabaristan (eighth century), Post-Reform Umayyad Caliphate (eighth century), 'Abbasid Caliphate (eighth to ninth century), and worn coins with cufiq inscription. The earliest drachm is attributed to King Kavad I (484, 488-497, 499-531) of Sassanian dynasty. The latest dirham is inscribed with the name of 'Abbasid governor al-Ma'mun (201 A.H/A.D. 816-817). Mousheghian concludes that the hoard reflects the international relationship of Armenia with North Africa, Iran, the Persian Gulf and the Transcaspiian countries in the ninth century. A map, a table of 53 mints showing the geographic locations where the coins were struck, and four charts displaying the chronology of the coins, are attached.

Գանձը կը բաղկանայ 1924 արծաթ դրամներէ։ սակայն նկարագրուած են միայն 1224 դրամներ։ Գանձը գտնուած է Նոդրճիլայի շրջանին, Սիւնիք գիւղը, Սիւնիանի շրջանին մէջ։ Գանձը ստորաբաժանուած է հետեւեալ ենթախումբերու։ Մասնաւոր թագաւորութիւն (2-ի դ-ը), նախաբնօրոշմեան արաբ-մասսանեան (3-ը դ-ը), Թարաքիստանի նահանգապետներ (Լ դ-ը), Օմայեան խալիֆայութեան յետեւօրոշմեան շրջան (Լ դ-ը), Աբբասեան խալիֆայութիւն (Լ-Թ դ-ը), մաշուած դրամներ արաբական բուֆի դրոմէիւններով։ Վաղագոյն տրամաւան փերագրուած է Մասսանեան հարստութեան Կաւատ Ա (484, 488-497, 499-531) արքային։ Ամենաուշ դրէհմը արձանագրուած է Աբրահամեան նահանգապետ ալ-Մամունի (201 Հ./Յ.Ք. 816-817) անունով։ Մուշեղեան կ'եզրակացնէ թէ գանձը կ'արտացոլացնէ Հայաստանի միջնադարի վաճառականական ուղղութիւնները ինչնորոգ դարուն հիւսիսային Աֆրիկէի, Իրանի և Պարսից ծոցի ու Անդրկասպեան երկիրներուն հետ կցուած են քարտէզ մը, աղիւսակ մը դրամներու հատման 53 փոքրանոցներուն և ըստ իրենց աշխարհագրական դիրքին, ինչպէս նաև չորս աղիւսակներ որոնք ցոյց կու տան դրամներու ժամանակագրութիւնները։ Եթն

- 6 SEKOULIAN, Au. Arajak me: Azat ankakh Hayastani dramen anune [A Proposal: The name of Free and Independent Armenia's Currency] - Առաջարկ մը. Ազատ անկախ Հայաստանի դրամին անունը, գրեց՝ Հ. Օզոտտինոս Վրդ. Սեքուլեան. *Armenian Life*, Vol. VII (13 March 1992), No. 23, p. 32. In Armenian.

With a proposal for the names of currency of independent Armenia, Fr. Au. Sekoulian mentions all of the names of ancient coins.

Անկախ Հայաստանի դրամներուն անունան առաջարկին հետ, Հ. Օ. Սեքուլեան կը լիշէ բոլոր հին դրամներուն անունները։ Եթն



Fig. 1. Paul Z. Bedoukian, A Medal of the Armenian College in Calcutta



Fig. 2. Armen Nercessian, A Medal Honoring Fresno's Armenian Community



Fig. 3. Levon A. Saryan, Three Unreported Tetradrachms of Tigranes the Great

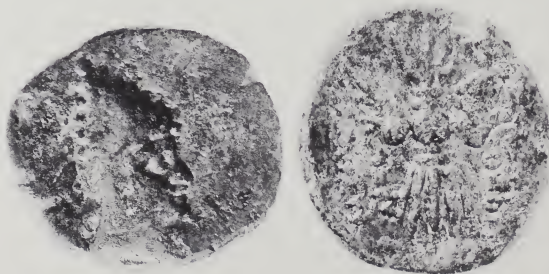


Fig. 4. Emanuel Sevrugian, Some Remarks on Political Portraiture of Arsames (enlarged)



Series I

Volume XVIII, No. 3

September 1992

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ARMENIAN

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NUMISMATIC

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JOURNAL

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ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC JOURNAL

Series I

Vol. XVIII, No. 3

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CAUTION & WARNING

It was sixteen years ago that we printed our first article on "Cleaning and Preservation of Ancient Coins," by Capt. A. F. Johnson, USN Ret. (*ArmNJ*, Vol. II (1976), pp. 18-20). In the footnote of this article we stated "The editorial department does not encourage cleaning ancient and medieval coins unless it is an absolute necessity. This article is being offered in the interest of service to collectors, since many collectors do like cleaning their coins. Under no condition shall either the Armenian Numismatic Society or the writer be responsible for any damage which may result from the above suggested procedure." **Today our position has not changed.**

In this issue of *ArmNJ* we have an article and some notes on ancient and medieval coin cleaning. Both authors are experts in their fields. Prof. Dickran Kouymjian is an expert numismatist and in this professional capacity was employed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Dr. Mesrop Abgarians, a retired dentist and a veteran numismatist, is an old hand in cleaning of coins. However, beginners should not undertake cleaning of their coins without serious thought.

CAUTION

Regardless of how badly your coin is oxidized, initial attempts should not be made with a very strong acid solution. The acidity should be increased gradually.

A collector needs to keep in mind that a badly corroded copper coin may have its inside fabric damaged and eaten. In other words, its exterior skin may be only a shell.

WARNING

Do not start coin cleaning with your most valuable coins.
Do your "on the job training" with inexpensive pieces.

It will cause a great sorrow to a novice coin cleaner if in his ignorance he ruins a very rare or valuable coin.

Finally, for those who are not satisfied with the material presented here and would like to pursue this subject further, we recommend your local library and suggest research books and articles on coin cleaning. One good starting point might be G. Welter and H. Schulman, *Cleaning and Preservation of Coins and Medals* (New York, 1976), 117 pp.

Y. T. Nercessian

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LETTERS

...As you probably know, I have been working on Armenian stamps for some time. As with coins, I now have a very large collection that justifies a publication. The title will probably be "Stamps of Armenia" since there are no "Armenian Stamps." I will cover stamps used in historic Armenia, Cilicia and Soviet stamps with Armenian themes.

Before long I will look into the practical aspects of publishing such a volume. Will keep you posted.

If our Society wants to get involved let me know.

Paul Z. Bedoukian
Wilton, CT

J'ai reçu il y a quelques jours le paquet de livres que vous donnez généreusement à notre bibliothèque, et je vous en exprime, au nom du Cabinet des Médailles, notre vive reconnaissance.

Nous avons vérifié, à cette occasion, que nous avons acquis, par don de la Société Française de Numismatique, quelques fascicules de l'*Armenian Numismatic Journal*, mais nous sommes loin d'être à jour.

Auriez-vous l'obligeance, je vous prie, de faire parvenir à notre bibliothèque une liste des publications de l'*Armenian Numismatic Society* depuis ses origines (en 1971, je crois)? Cela nous permettrait de passer commande de ce qui nous manque sans risque d'erreur.

En vous renouvelant nos plus chaleureux remerciements pour votre générosité, je vous prie d'accepter, cher Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments amicaux et respectueux.

Mme Dominique Gerin
Bibliothèque Nationale
Paris

Զեր «Counterfeit Armenian Coins»-ի չաբբում No. 3-ի 2-րդ օրինակը ես ունեմ: Նոյն կապալարով թափուած՝ ճիշտ նոյն դրամը: Իմ հայրիկից մնացած է և կարծում եմ 100 տարուց առել լինի: Նոյն աստղը թագաւորի ականջի ձախ կողմում: REV. Տ մօնօգրաւը ժայռի վրայ բայց աջ կողմի Ա-ն սխալ էջ տեսել: Իմ օրինակի վրայ առելի պարզ ցոյց է տալիս, որ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ բառի վերջին տառն է Σ և ոչ Δ

Mesrop T. Abgarians
Glendale, CA

Ծանօթ. Խմբ.- վերոյիշեալ յօդուածի թիւ 3 դրամին Δ տաւը պէտք էր ըլլար Δ մօնօգրաւը, որ կը գտնուի Բախտի ձեռքին և արմատնիկի ճիւղին տակը:

MEETING NOTICE

Date: September 12, 1992, 8:00 P.M., Saturday Evening

Place: Home of Mr. & Mrs. Y. T. Nercesian
8511 Beverly Park Place
Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1920

Telephone: 310/695-0380

Subject: "Copper Coinage of Levon I, an Iconographic Approach"

GRADING OF ARMENIAN COINS

Beginners and newcomers frequently ask how does one grade ancient coins? How does one know what he has is graded correctly? How can one grade the coins he purchased as a board? A collector who has handled a few coins cannot be expected to be able to grade his coins as well as a dealer who has handled thousands. Grading of ancient coins depends primarily on experience, capability of evaluating them for overall eye appeal and aesthetic beauty which carries with it thousands of years of history imprinted permanently on metallic miniature monuments. Some general guidelines, however, are given below which should serve as a guide to help a collector develop his own standards or ground rules. At the same time a beginner needs to understand that there can never be a standard grading guide to ancient and medieval Armenian coins (similar to coins of the twentieth century) since it is very hard to find two ancient coins which look exactly alike.

In this paper the terms "ancient coins" or "ancient Armenian coins" are used synonymously. The general guidelines given in this essay should be equally applicable to other ancient coins which have a very high relief and display the portrait of the ruler on the obverse side. Also, the expressions "medieval coins," "Roupenian coins," or "Cilician Armenian coins" are used synonymously. Once again, the general guidelines given here should be equally applicable to other medieval coins whose basic design pattern is similar to Armenian coins (i.e. medieval coins of Cyprus or Jerusalem, etc.).

Here it should be mentioned that most ancient coin dealers in Western Europe and North America use the following four most important grades: FDC, EF, VF, F. For coins with grades lower than "Fine," the standards as well as the terminology change. Many dealers utilize several grades. For standardization, convenience, and simplicity,¹ we shall adapt and discuss the following seven grades:

Fleur de Coin: A coin graded FDC is the finest quality, most desirable coin. In addition to mint luster or radiant beauty, an FDC coin is characterized by being well-struck, and nearly perfectly centered on both sides. It should be a specimen of perfection and beauty, reflecting the best of the ancient or medieval moneyer's art. Note that the expression "mint state" is avoided, since it could be misleading; a very poorly struck coin in mint state may have cracks, very flat areas, 30 percent of the design may be off the flan, and it may not even grade VF.

Extremely Fine: A coin graded EF is characterized by light wear on coin's highest points. On both obverse and reverse sides the details should show. Very minor striking and centering problems typical to hammered coins may exist and are permissible.

Very Fine: A VF graded coin is characterized by light even wear on all high points and surface. Lettering and major features of the portraits in sharp condition are desirable, legends nearly 80 percent complete and all are legible.

Fine: A coin graded F is characterized by moderate wear all over the coin. A loss of high point detail up to 50 percent can occur; loss of legends and design up to 30 percent is

¹ Most ancient coin dealers that this writer deals with in North America subscribe to these seven grades. In Europe the lower grades are slightly different.

permissible; however, at least half of legends on obverse and reverse sides need to be legible.

Very Good: A coin graded VG is characterized by being well-worn, high points and details should be worn smooth. Some legends, less than half, should exist on both sides.

Good: A coin graded G is characterized by having all its major design features visible, the ruler identifiable, but heavily worn. Legends may not be legible.

Fair: A coin graded F is the lowest grade associated with ancient coins. It is characterized by being well-worn, legends not visible, barely identifiable and recognizable to which dynasty and/or ruler it belongs.

To further describe a coin properly, many dealers use the terms "slightly better," "good," or "nice"; and "nearly as good," "about," or "nearly," and some "+" or "-" etc. This writer prefers to use the symbols "VF+" or "-." (-VF); and split the grades when the obverse and reverse sides grade differently (EF/VF+).

Most dealers are extremely conscientious; they try their utmost to grade a coin as fairly as they can. However, grading is a subjective matter, and sometimes differences of opinion exists even among the experts. Numismatists, dealers, cataloguers, and collectors are human beings, and no one is perfect. Some minor variations in coin grades are inevitable. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder; prospective buyers will determine a coin's true value in the marketplace based on its overall condition. A collector also needs to understand that a dealer is expected to have certain amount of markup in buying and selling coins if he is to make a living and stay in business.²

Section I. Ancient Coins

To have a full appreciation and understanding for ancient coin grading, the student needs to understand how coins were produced. The dies were engraved manually (intaglio) into a thick bronze disk. The obverse dies, normally displaying the portrait of the ruler, were fitted on a flat anvil. The reverse dies were carved into the base of a punch and placed above the obverse dies.³ The coins were produced by hammering. Blanks of silver (or copper), called planchet, were cast or cut from bars. They were carefully weighed, trimmed to shape or to bring the weight within designated limits, heated, placed between obverse and reverse dies, and struck with a heavy hammer on the back of the upper die.⁴ The heavy hammer blow would force the hot malleable metal to flow into the dies, receive the shape of the die, and produce a coin. If a second or additional blows were required, as it was the case for very high relief coins, the coin may have moved during the process creating "off-center" and "double struck" coins.

Fleur de Coin: During the ancient period in Armenia, coins were issued by three dynasties: the kingdom of Sophene (ca. 260 B.C. to 90 B.C.), Artaxiad dynasty (190 B.C. to A.D. 6), and the kingdom of Commagene (163 B.C. to 34 B.C.). This writer has never seen a coin issued by any one of the kings of these three dynasties in FDC grade either in silver or in copper. However, there are numerous gold coins issued by the Roman Empire relating to Armenia; these coins may come in very superb grade and so to speak, they leave you breathless.

No. 1. For this grade (FDC/EF+), an aureus of Lucius Verus (A.D. 161-169) is presented. The head of Lucius Verus to right on the obverse, as sharp as possible, is flawless and a masterpiece of perfection. It is centered as perfectly as possible.

² In order to make this grading impersonal and universal as much as possible, the author has tried to select examples from various sale and auction catalogues.

³ Z. H. Klawans, *An Outline of Ancient Greek Coins* (Racine, WI, 1964), pp. 11-12.

⁴ G. F. Hill, *Ancient Methods of Coining* (Numismatic Chronicle reprint series, New York, 1977).

The reverse of the first coin displays Lucius⁵ Verus in military uniform, seated left atop a platform. The emperor flanked by two officers, extends his right hand toward Sohemus of Armenia who stands left of the platform on ground. The coin may represent the settlement of Armenian problems in A.D.163. The reverse is as sharp as possible, all details are there, and there is no trace of wear. It is well-centered. On the reverse of the first coin, at 1:00 o'clock, the upper portion of two letters (MP) is slightly trimmed. This minor flaw reduces the reverse FDC grade to EF+, and the price is affected accordingly. Valuation of coins is beyond the scope of this paper.

No. 2. Similar to the aureus of Lucius Verus above, this specimen is sharp, well-centered, and flawless. The reverse depicts winged Victory, nude to waist, standing to right.⁶ The reverse is as sharp as possible, all details are there, and no sign of wear is visible. It is well-centered. FDC is a fitting grade for this gold piece.

Extremely Fine: No. 3 (EF+), No. 4 (EF+), No. 5 (-EF). On ancient Armenian coins the high points could be the star and eagles, king's cheek, diadem, or even the pearls edged on the ear or neck flaps. They may have very minor centering problems (up to 10 percent), typical to most ancient coins. Here the reader is reminded that sometimes the strike may not be very sharp and the low areas which may look "worn" are actually nothing but a poor strike. In a case like this, due to the judgement of overall eye appeal by the cataloguer, the grading and pricing will be affected. Very minor nicks can be expected. Note that edge cracks may be expected in all grades.

No. 3. (EF+) is a tetradrachm of Tigranes the Great.⁷ The obverse and reverse look very sharp and crisp; all details are there. The star, eagles, and diadem display signs of light wear. The five peaks of Armenian tiara on the obverse look extremely sharp. On the reverse, the Tyche and river god swimming in display light wear. Both sides are extremely well-centered, the fillet borders and legends are complete. A very desirable coin.

No. 4. The tetradrachm of Artavasdes II (EF+) is a very attractive coin.⁸ A collector of Armenian coins cannot help but fall in love with such a beautiful specimen.⁹ Both obverse and reverse are very crisp. Even the facial features of the charioteer can be seen on the reverse. The first peak of the tiara, diadem, and king's cheek show sign of wear. On the reverse, the fourth horse displays sign of wear. The coin is slightly off-center.

No. 5. The two chalci of Tigranes IV (-EF) is another very attractive coin.¹⁰ The obverse portrait hardly displays sign of wear except the cheek. The reverse is very sharp including the face of Victory. Unfortunately, the word "ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ" is not as clear as it needs to be. Also, equally and more degrading is the minor crack developed during the striking process of the coin. Of course, still it is a rare gem and it would be a prize in the cabinet of any collector.

⁵ Numismatic Fine Arts International, Inc., *Auction XXII: Ancient Greek & Roman Coins* (Beverly Hills, California, June 1, 1989), No. 70.

⁶ Numismatic Fine Arts, Inc., *Auction II: Ancient Coins* (Beverly Hills, California, March 25-26, 1976), No. 431.

⁷ Percy Gardner, *Catalogue of Greek Coins: The Seleucid Kings of Syria* (reprint, Bologne, 1963), pl. XXVII, No. 6.

⁸ Bank Leu AG Zürich, *Auktion 30: Antike Münzen; Griechen Römer* (Zürich, April 28, 1982), No. 201; Numismatic Fine Arts International, Inc., *Auction XXII: Ancient Greek & Roman Coins* (Beverly Hills, California, June 1, 1989), No. 337.

⁹ I remember very distinctly how an Armenian coin collector came to my house, and in my living room saw the Bank Leu auction catalogue No. 30. Then looking at the portrait of Artavasdes II on the front cover of the catalogue he said, "I have fallen in love with this coin."

¹⁰ Gerhard Hirsch, *Auktion 169: Münzen und Medaillen* (Munich, February 20-22, 1991), p. 33, No. 547, pl. 23.

Very Fine: No. 6 (VF), No. 7 (-VF/VF), No. 8 (VF+/VF), No. 9 (VF+/-VF). A coin graded VF should show more than half of the details. On a coin of Tigranes perhaps a good portion of the star and eagles should be visible. All high points can be worn and display even wear including the legend. Some off-centering to certain extent (up to 20 percent) is permissible. The coin will lack crispness but it must be sharp to a certain extent. In this grade cracks, scratches, and some planchet defects will be noticeable.

No. 6. The bronze chalcus of King Arsames (VF) displays light even wear on the forehead, drapery folds around the neck, and only half of dotted border is present.¹¹ The portrait shows all facial details. On the reverse, the coin is off-center and the high point on the eagle is worn, but all of the legend is there.

No. 7. (-VF/VF) portrays the bust of Tigranes I to left.¹² All major features of the obverse (four-pointed tiara, facial features, diadem) are there. The details of the high points are not visible because of minor oxidation and patina that has developed during the past two thousand years. The star is barely visible. Both the obverse and reverse are well-centered. The reverse is much sharper than the obverse. The Victory and the palm-branch look very sharp, leaf separation can be seen; the legends are almost complete and look fairly sharp. An attractive and a desirable coin.

No. 8. The four chalci of Tigranes the Great (VF+/VF) is one of his very attractive coppers.¹³ Half of the eight-pointed star and eagles are present, the dotted border is slightly off-center, nevertheless the portrait looks fairly sharp. The reverse is also slightly off-center, except for the first and last letters of the first word all the legend is there. It is a desirable copper coin, has a very attractive overall eye appeal, and is rarely found in this condition.

No. 9. The bust of Artavasdes II portrayed on a drachm (VF+/-VF) shows very light even wear on all high points: tiara peaks, diadem, cheek, ear and neck flaps, and drapery folds around the neck.¹⁴ On the reverse, the horses, charioteer, and the legend display light and even wear. Furthermore, the reverse is off-center. The obverse portrait has a magnetic charm, the coin has an attractive eye appeal, and for this reason it would receive a split grading as noted.

Fine: No. 10 (F/-F), No. 11 (-F), No. 12 (-F/F+). For an ancient Armenian coin bearing a portrait on the obverse, moderately and smoothly worn high points may be the eight-pointed star and eagles, king's cheek, diadem, or pearls edged on the flaps. Typological details or major design features must be visible, although they may be up to one-half of the details of high points. One-half of the obverse and reverse legends should be legible. Off-centering is permissible up to 30 percent. On the reverse, depending on the type, major type details should be visible. On high points, like Antioch or Artaxata Tyche, less than half of the details on Tyche's head and fingers, palm-branch, river god should be present. Coins graded F, may have increased edge cracks, scratches, some corrosion and planchet defects.

No. 10. On the obverse of this coin (F/-F),¹⁵ the upper part of the obverse of the portrait of

¹¹ Numismatic Fine Arts, Inc., *Auction X: Ancient Coins* (Beverly Hills, California, September 17-18, 1981), No. 227.

¹² Gerhard Hirsch, *Auktion 165: Münzen und Medaillen Antiken* (Munich, February 14-16, 1990), p. 31, No. 505, pl. 19; Y. T. Nercessian, "An Unpublished Coin of Tigranes I," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I., Vol. XVII (June 1991), No. 2, pp. 13-21.

¹³ Gerhard Hirsch, *Auktion 168: Münzen und Medaillen Antiken* (Munich, November 22, 1990), p. 27, No. 356, pl. 14.

¹⁴ Numismatic Fine Arts, Inc., *Auction V: Ancient Coins* (Beverly Hills, California, February 23-24, 1978), No. 213.

¹⁵ Gerhard Hirsch, *Auktion 163: Münzen und Medaillen Antiken* (Munich, September 27-29, 1989), p. 31, No. 495, pl. 16.

Tigranes the Great is better preserved or struck than the lower portion. The five-pointed tiara, eight-pointed star and eagles, diadem are all visible. The facial features are there. But all show moderate wear. On the reverse, the Tyche is moderately worn, the palm-branch is sharp, two-third of the legend is present, but river god's outline is barely visible. F is a just grade for this coin.

No. 11. The four chalci of Tigranes/Antiochus (-F) demonstrates moderate wear.¹⁶ On the obverse the five-pointed tiara peaks are distinctly visible, the nose, eye, chin, ear and neck flaps are identifiable. The eight-pointed star and eagles are worn completely. The coin is well centered on both obverse and reverse sides. The lion of Commagene is moderately worn as well as the inscription above the lion. The lower half of the legend is practically invisible.

No. 12. The copper coin of Tigranes V/Erato (-F/F+) is a very rare piece.¹⁷ On the obverse the portrait of Tigranes V is moderately worn and smooth. The facial features, five-pointed tiara, diadem can be seen very easily. About a small fraction of the obverse legend is visible. Both the obverse and reverse portraits are well centered. The portrait of Queen Erato is much sharper than Tigranes V. Also, just about half the reverse legend is there. Since it is a rare coin, if the finances of a collector permits, he should not pass the opportunity to acquire coin of this type, even if the preservation may not be commensurate with his personal high standards.

Very Good: No. 13 (VG+/F+), No. 14 (VG/VG+). A coin graded VG is expected to lack detail design and most of the inscription. It may be off-center up to 40 percent. Furthermore, due to extensive circulation the coin may possess moderate planchet defects as well (corrosion and oxidation).

No. 13. The obverse of a copper piece of Tigranes I (VG+/F+) is representative for VG+ grade.¹⁸ The portrait is well worn, the high points are well rounded, and the student can notice the four-pointed tiara as well as the outline of facial features and the ribbon hanging behind the tiara. The reverse is preserved much better: the standing figure, spear, eagle all can be seen very distinctly, and almost three-quarters of the inscription is legible. Therefore, it would call for a split grading as indicated above.

No. 14. A two chalci of Tigranes the Great is VG/VG+.¹⁹ On the obverse the portrait is well-worn, the bust of Tigranes very well visible with some details. On the reverse the palm-branch can be seen, and even with the leaf separation. Some legend is present although not legible.

Good: No. 15 (G).²⁰ A coin graded G is expected to lack all of its legend and more than 50 percent of its design as well. Due to extensive circulation and corrosion, the coin will be subject to extensive planchet defects.

No. 15. This coin (G) displays the outline of an Armenian tiara. On the reverse, the legend is completely vanished, the outline of Victory is identifiable.

fair: No. 16 (VG+/f). A coin grading f should be considered barely identifiable.

No. 16. (VG+/f) is a copper coin of Tigranes the Great bearing a letter "A" behind the

¹⁶ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Books; Bulletin No. 10* [henceforth ACAB X] (Pico Rivera, California, 1980), p. 2, No. 15, pl. I.

¹⁷ Courtesy of Vahe Samuelian, private collection.

¹⁸ P. Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia* (London, 1978), p. 47, No. 5, pl. 1.

¹⁹ ACAB X, No. 14.

²⁰ P. Z. Bedoukian, 68, No. 125, pl. 6.

tiara (Artaxata mint).²¹ The obverse is corroded and pitted. The upper part of the tiara is not visible but the diadem, ear and neck flaps are visible. The reverse is completely oxidized and covered with dirt. The upper portion of Nike and two letter of the legend are visible.

Subsequently, this coin was cleaned and the oxidation removed. The bust of Tigranes and the letter A received a much sharper form. The entire silhouette of Nike could be seen on the reverse as well as most of the inscription on the right side except for the first letter which was off the flan. Consequently, the grade advanced to -F/VG+.

Section II. Medieval Armenian Coins

While grading of ancient Armenian coins was undertaken, immediately it was apparent that it would not be possible to describe how to grade ancient and medieval coins simultaneously. Ancient Armenian coins display the portrait of the ruler on the obverse without any inscription and they are executed with a very high relief.²² Medieval Armenian coins, however, have very little relief, and have a circular inscription around the king seated on a throne. Also, on Roupinian coins there is no portrait of a ruler so to speak, and practically, the engraving of inscription and ruler's effigy have the same height. Nevertheless there are some similarities in grading between ancient and medieval coins.

In order to fully appreciate and understand medieval coin grading, the student needs to understand how Cilician Armenian coins were produced. In western Europe, most of the contemporary coins were punched. In Cilician Armenia, the indications are that a positive punch, after being engraved on a hard metal surface, was hammered into softer metals; these in turn were hardened by tempering and used as dies to strike thousands of coins.²³ The obverse dies were fitted on an anvil. The reverse dies were fitted into the base of a punch or trussel. Blanks of silver (or copper) were cast or cut from sheet metal which was then carefully weighed, trimmed to shape or to bring the weight within designated limits, heated, placed between obverse and reverse dies, and struck with a heavy hammer on the back of the upper die.²⁴ Hammer's heavy blow would force the hot malleable metal to flow into the dies, take the shape of the die, and produce a coin.

On these metallic miniature monuments one can witness numerous historic events: double trams and coronation trams of King Levon I, bilingual and regular trams of King Hetoum I, coins of Gosdantin I, copper pogs of King Levon V, etc. However, if a double tram of Levon I reflects the glory of Roupinian dynasty at its highest peak, a takvorin of Gosdantin IV or a pogh of Levon V chronicles the history of this dynasty at its lowest point. During the last decades of this medieval kingdom, the quality as well as workmanship of the coinage declined: planchets were very small, thin, and irregular, the design and engraving was executed with less care, the depth of engraving is very shallow, and the silver fineness of the alloy decreased drastically. Although coins of these late kings are not very scarce, it is extremely hard to locate them in very well-executed condition, well-centered, and with complete legend on both obverse and reverse sides. Therefore, the collector needs to be reminded that for late Cilician Armenian coins searching for very desirable specimen in extremely fine or very fine state of preservation is frustrating not to say impossible.

²¹ ACAB X, No. 12.

²² Coins issued by Tigranes V/Erato and Tigranes V/Augustus must be considered an exception since they have inscription on the obverse and reverse sides.

²³ P. Z. Bedoukian, "The Art of Coinage in Cilician Armenia," *Handes Amsorya*, Vol. LXXVII (April-June 1963), Nos. 4-6, pp. 247-264 (in Armenian); also in *Selected Numismatic Studies* (Los Angeles, 1981), pp. 371-380.

²⁴ G. F. Hill, *Ancient Methods of Coining* (Numismatic Chronicle reprint series, New York, 1977).

Fleur de Coin: Based on the obverse and reverse iconography as well as the legends and field marks, it should be a specimen of perfection, beauty, and a piece of art. No. 17 (-FDC/FDC), No. 18 (FDC).

The kings of the Roupenian dynasty issued millions of coins during its 300 year existence. Most of them have been melted for their silver and recycled into jewelry or new money. Less than one hundred thousand coins have reached us from five barons and fourteen kings. Coins capable of meeting discriminating high standards and worthy of being graded FDC are very few, all of them in silver, and primarily belong to the first two kings. A collector can expect to see only a few coins in FDC grade in a very large hoard, perhaps in the order of one in one thousand pieces or more.

No. 17. The first coin (-FDC/FDC) is a very rare type double tram²⁵ of King Levon I. The obverse design is flawless, it is crisp and very sharp. The centering is almost perfect but due to striking technical problems letters at the bottom are not as sharp as they should be. The reverse iconography is superb and breathtaking in every respect, crisp and sharp, beautifully executed lion to right, well-centered, sharp and crisp legend. This is a very attractive and a desirable coin in addition to being a rare variety of this type.

No. 18. (FDC) is a regular tram²⁶ of King Levon I. The obverse design and the legend are crisp, sharp, well-centered, and show hardly any sign of wear. On the reverse, the design and legend are crisp and sharp, showing no sign of wear. Very slight off-centering is present but all of the design is on the planchet and this is permissible for ancient and medieval coins. This is the type of coin that an average collector may come across in this superb grade if he is willing to pay the price.

Extremely Fine: No. 19 (EF), No. 20 (EF), No. 21 (-EF), No. 22 (-EF). As it was noted above, the obverse and reverse iconography design, and the circular inscription, basically, have the same height. The legends on both sides have dotted circles inside and outside of them. Because of these circles, one would think that the obverse or reverse detail design "high" points would be susceptible to wear at a much faster rate than the inscription struck around the edge of the coin which would be "protected" by the circles to certain extent. The person who has handled these coins, most likely has rubbed the central portion first. On the other hand, due to various inherent hammering problems, the deficiencies most likely would be prevalent in the legends. They may have very minor centering problems (5 to 10 percent), typical to most medieval hammered coins. Coins in EF grade are available in large hoards at least at a rate of 2 to 3 percent.

No. 19. (EF) is a two-lion coronation tram²⁷ of King Levon I. The iconography looks sharp and just about all of the details can be seen on the obverse and reverse sides. Both sides are well-centered. The obverse has a slight indication of wear on king's garment, shoulder, and crown. On Virgin Mary's figure, the garment folds have very minor light wear. The upper right portion of the obverse legend is slightly flattened. On the obverse and reverse, at 1:30 o'clock, there is a very minor off-centering which is permissible.

No. 20. The Hetoum-Kaikhosrew bilingual tram²⁸ (EF+/EF) is a very sharp looking coin. The obverse is practically flawless, well-centered, very sharp, all legends and field marks are there. There is a trace of wear on king's head and shoulders and horse's body. The reverse displays an equally sharp four line Arabic inscription but the edge at 7 o'clock it is flattened and the coin is not perfectly round.

²⁵ Münzen und Medaillen AG, Auktion 12: Münzen der Antike, des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit aus Privatbesitz [henceforth *MM 12*] (Basel, September 29 and 30, 1981), p. 47, No. 767, pl.

²⁶ YN collection.

²⁷ YN collection.

²⁸ YN collection.

No. 21. The tram²⁹ of King Gosdantin I (-EF), is a very rare coin. The iconography on the obverse and reverse look very sharp. The horse's head, hair, body, king's figure, shoulder, and drapery folds as well as ornaments display all of the details. However, both obverse and reverse inscription have minor problems; in addition to being clipped on both sides, they are flattened at 5 o'clock. This writer feels that -EF is a very fair grade for this coin.

No. 22. Most Armenian coin collectors may not realize that very small copper (pogh) or silver (billon) coins are very fragile and it is extremely hard to find them in well preserved condition. Such a coin is the billon³⁰ of King Hetoum II (-EF/EF). Above we indicated that the late Cilician Armenian coins have a very shallow depth. Here is a very rare coin which was issued when the kingdom was not very stable. The iconography on the obverse and reverse looks very sharp. The inscription on the obverse probably is the finest a collector can see, in spite of the fact that the legend is slightly clipped at the lower left side. King's head and shoulders display some wear. Also the planchet displays minor irregularities around the edge. The reverse cross and the dotted circle around it display superb crispness and sharpness.

Very Fine: No. 23 (-VF), No. 24 (VF+), No. 25 (VF+), No. 26 (-VF), No. 27 (VF). A coin graded VF should show more than half of the details. On a Roupenian coin 10 to 20 percent off-centering is permissible. The coin will lack the crispness but it must retain some detail.

No. 23. The single lion coronation tram³¹ of King Levon I (-VF) where on the reverse a lion is holding a cross with two bars. The design of this coin is sharp. On the obverse and reverse even light wear is present on all high points and surface. More than 80 percent of legends are present on both sides. On the obverse there are flat areas at 2:00 and 7:00 o'clock. Also there are some very fine minor cracks. On the reverse there is a flat area around 5:00 o'clock. The flan also is not perfectly circular. For this rare coin a grade of -VF assignment is just.

No. 24. The double tram³² of King Levon I (VF+), where on the reverse a lion is holding a cross with two bars. The obverse of this coin is a very sharp except for the king's face, knees, and the lions on the throne where slight but even wear can be noticed. On the reverse, two of the lion's legs are not struck sharply and the back is worn. The coin displays very slight off-centering problems at 1:00 o'clock; several letters on the top have been clipped. Otherwise it is a very attractive coin.

No. 25. King Levon I struck only one type of large copper coin, known as tank³³ (VF+). The obverse is perfectly centered. The iconography of the king is all there. The five diamonds on the king's crown can be easily discerned. The legends at the right side display some light wear, and the king's mustache is lightly worn. The reverse is almost perfectly centered. The cross is lightly worn; most of the lettering looks sharp; however, a few of the letters display light wear.

No. 26. The bilingual tram³⁴ of Hetoum-Kaiqobad is a commemorative coin struck to mark an historical treaty obligation (-VF). Light even wear can be seen on the obverse iconography, legends, and field marks. Horse's head, hair, and body have some wear.

²⁹ MM 12, p. 49, No. 830, pl.

³⁰ Gerhard Hirsch, *Auktion 170: Münzen und Medaillen Antiken* (Munich, May, 1991, p. 107, No. 2637, pl. 91.

³¹ *ibid.*, p. 107, No. 2626, pl. 90.

³² Credit Suisse, *Auction 4: Important Ancient & Medieval Coins Including an Armenian & Judaeen Collection* (Bern, December 3, 1985), p. 112, No. 695.

³³ ACAB X, p. 5, No. 48, pl. II.

³⁴ ACAB X, p. 5, No. 53, pl. III.

King's head and shoulders have some wear. The legend is complete and the coin is well-centered. The reverse Arabic legend is complete and better preserved, fairly sharp, and well-centered.

No. 27. The bilingual half tram of Hetoum-Kaikhosrew (VF) is a rare and interesting coin.³⁵ The coin is well centered and most of it very sharp. Less than twenty percent on obverse and reverse is flat. On the obverse the entire Armenian legend is readable. On the reverse, more than eighty percent of the Arabic legend is visible. A VF preservation for this coin is an acceptable and just grade.

Fine: No. 28 (F/F+), No. 29 (F+), No. 30 (F+/F), No. 31 (F/-VF). Details up to one-half of the high points should be visible. One half of the obverse and reverse legends should be visible. Off centering to certain extent (20 to 30 percent) is permissible. On the reverse, depending on the type, major type details should be visible.

No. 28. The copper coins³⁶ of Baron Levon II (F/F+) are very interesting and extremely scarce. In this case we see high points of the knight and his shield, horse's head, legs, and body are worn smooth. At least half of the legend is legible and the traces of the rest is visible. The coin is well-centered. The reverse is better preserved; the cross is very sharp even though it is worn, more than half of the legend is visible and legible but slightly off-center.

No. 29. On this copper coin³⁷ (F+), King Hetoum I is portrayed as an equestrian similar to his silver bilingual coins. On the obverse all fine details are worn smooth, the horseman and the horse are well-worn as is the legend. However, the coin is almost perfectly centered and the complete legend is legible. The reverse is fairly well-worn, all of the cross is visible, and the complete legend is legible. The reverse is slightly off-center.

No. 30. Levon II changed the design of silver coins and issued a new tram³⁸ (F+/F). On the obverse, the high points and fine details of the iconography is present, the legend is worn, complete, and legible but if there were any field marks they must be worn smooth. The coin is very well-centered. The reverse lion has striking problems; except for the 7 o'clock area the rest is very sharp, even the lettering is very sharp in addition to being complete and legible. It is very well centered.

No. 31. This takvorin³⁹ of Levon the Usurper is graded F/-VF. On the obverse we see the king's body, horse's head and body well-worn and smooth. From 9 to 12 o'clock the lettering is missing, the rest is worn but legible. The coin is slightly off-center. The reverse is much better preserved than the obverse. The high points of the lion's head, body, and legs are worn, but all of the design is there without the details. The legend is very sharp and for a takvorin of this period it is well struck and well-centered.

Very Good: No. 32 (VG/F), No. 33 (VG+/F), No. 34 (VG+/VG).

No. 32. Levon II's kardez⁴⁰ is graded VG/F. On the obverse side the lion is displayed to left. In spite of the fact that the coin is well-worn the lion looks fairly sharp; slightly more than half of the legends are present, but typical of this ruler's copper coins, the kardez is off-center. The reverse, in addition to being well worn, also has striking defects and the left side of the coin barely shows any detail; the cross, and the rest of the legend seems to be well worn. However, it is well-centered.

³⁵ Stephen Alburn, *Price List 57* (Santa Rosa, California: March 1989), No. 542.

³⁶ ACAB X, p. 4, No. 22, pl. I.

³⁷ ACAB X, p. 6, No. 75, pl. IV.

³⁸ ACAB X, p. 7, No. 84, pl. IV.

³⁹ ACAB X, p. 9, No. 151, pl. VI.

⁴⁰ ACAB X, p. 7, No. 90, pl. IV.

No. 33. The pogh⁴¹ of Levon IV (VG+/F), again, is typical of the small average copper coins of this period that a collector will encounter. The obverse iconography is well worn and smooth, less than half of the legend is visible and legible, and the coin is off-center. The reverse is much better preserved, the cross and the inscription are sharp but worn. Surprisingly the coin has good centering.

No. 34. The takvorin⁴² of Gosdantin IV (VG+/VG) is not scarce, but hard to find with good preservation. They are all struck with very shallow depth and poor workmanship. The obverse iconography of this coin is well-worn, more than half of the legend is visible and legible, and surprisingly well centered. The reverse, the lion is well-worn and smooth, more than half of circular inscription is preserved and legible, but the coin is off-center.

Good: No. 35 (F/G).

No. 35. The copper coin⁴³ of Oshin (F/G) is known as pogh. On the obverse the design is quite visible; it is identifiable that it belongs to king Oshin, and a Bedoukian corpus number can be assigned to in spite of the fact that moderate wear has smoothed all high points. More than half of the legend is visible and the coin is well-centered. The reverse preservation is not as good as the obverse. A few letters are visible, the iconography is heavily worn and the coin is slightly off-center.

fair: No. 36 (f).

No. 36. The last coin (f) is the copper pogh⁴⁴ of Levon V, the last king of this dynasty. The coin is so worn that we cannot read the inscription. However, from the obverse lion, size and weight of the pogh we can conclusively attribute this coin to King Levon V of Cilician Armenia.⁴⁵

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⁴¹ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Coins and Books; Bulletin No. 9* [henceforth ACAB IX] (Pico Rivera, California, 1979), p. 8, No. 146, pl. V.

⁴² ACAB IX, p. 9, No. 162, pl. VI.

⁴³ ACAB X, p. 8, No. 134, pl. VI.

⁴⁴ ACAB IX, p. 9, No. 164, pl. VI.

⁴⁵ My thanks are due to Numismatic Fine Arts International, Inc. and Münzen und Medaillen AG for granting permission to reprint their photographs, and Gerhard Hirsch for providing photographs of their coins.

SIMPLE MECHANICAL-CHEMICAL CLEANING OF ANCIENT COINS*

The following methods for the cleaning of silver and bronze coins are intended for use in the field or in localities where laboratory facilities are limited. (Gold coins need nothing more than washing with warm, soapy water and a soft brush.)

CAUTIONARY NOTE: *Under no circumstances should even the most oxidized coin be cleaned with a strong acid solution.*

A. Silver coins

1. Initial cleaning

(a) Soap and water

Soak the coin(s) in warm soapy water for several hours, turning it over from time to time, removing and brushing it with a soft brush. If soil or dirt still adheres, sprinkle some fine table salt on it and rub the coin gently with your fingers.

(b) Sodium carbonate

An alternative method is to boil the coin with washing soda (sodium carbonate, Na_2CO_3), which should remove accumulated dirt.

2. Mechanical cleaning

If dirt or corrosion persists, the use of instruments which do not scratch the surface of the coin should be employed. These include wooden toothpicks, bone stylus, and simple erasers of various hardnesses in the form of pencils.

3. Chemical cleaning

If oxides still adhere, the coin may be put in a mild chemical bath of either 2% citric acid, or 10% ammonia solution, or simple vinegar. (Several coins can be treated at the same time, but they should not touch each other.) The coin must be continuously inspected, turned, and rinsed. A coin should never be left overnight or for a long period in any solution.

* An extract from Dickran Kouymjian, *The Conservation and Preservation of Ancient Coins*, UNESCO Technical Report, RP/1975-76/3.421.5, Paris, 1977. Mission to the Libyan Arab Republic. Aid to Member States for the Development of Their Museums, Annex II. Reprinted with the permission of the author.

4. Rinsing and soaking

Cleaned coins should be rinsed in warm water for several minutes. After chemical treatment of any sort, the coin should be soaked for half a day in a cup of distilled water which is changed every half hour (method employed by the American Numismatic Society). An alternative process is to boil the coin with distilled water in a glass or enamel container, allow to cool to room temperature, and repeat for a total of three boilings (method employed by the British Museum).

5. Drying and sealing

(a) Drying

While in baths or soaking, a coin absorbs water which should be removed either by displacement or by the application of heat. Displacement involves soaking the coin in 96% denatured alcohol or acetone which replaces the water and later evaporates. With silver coins the process should be repeated twice with just enough liquid to cover the coin. Heat drying can be used if electricity is available. This can be done in an electric oven or with an electric hair dryer. The coin can also be dried with an infra-red heating lamp.

(b) Sealing

After drying, the coin should be coated lightly with paraffin to prevent moisture from entering it and causing further oxidation. In field conditions, chemically free neutral shoe polish can be substituted.

B. Bronze and copper coins

1. Initial cleaning

Brush the coin under running water to remove any loose dirt, exterior dirt or sand. If running water is not available, clear shoe polish may be used with a stiff toothbrush. This will usually remove initial layers of dirt and reveal the surface of the coin.

2. Mechanical cleaning

This is the preferred method for treating bronze coins and should be utilized whenever possible. Great care needs to be exercised in order to remove oxidation and corrosion without harming the antique patina which acts as a protective coat for the core metal. The process is best accomplished by the use of sharp picks, scalpels, and fiber glass erasers. Inexpensive scalpels with various shaped removal blades are now available from any medical supply company. In using picks or scalpels, work from the outer edge of each deposit toward the centre; often the corrosion will flake or chip off under pressure.

A fiber glass eraser, made of a tight bundle of glass fibers, is very effective in removing various corrosion deposits, but again caution must be used against over-vigorous rubbing which removes patina. If electricity is available, a small dental polishing drill with a fine fibrous point is effective for penetrating into minute areas and accelerating the cleaning process. In all mechanical work, always stop before the surface becomes bright. If patina is accidentally removed, an artificial patina can be re-established according to the method given in Section D below.

3. Chemical cleaning

Badly corroded or oxidized coins sometimes require chemical baths to soften the surface in order to continue mechanical cleaning. Such baths should be mild ones; they should be used only in conjunction with further manual cleaning, in an alternating chemical, mechanical cycle. The two most-used baths are (a) alkaline glycerol and (b) Rochelle salts (sodium potassium tartarate) plus sodium hydroxide (lye). The latter solution is prepared by adding 450 gr. Rochelle salts 150 gr. lye to 2 liters of water. When either solution is employed, the coin must be continually watched, removed, brushed, mechanically cleaned, and rinsed before re-immersion. As soon as the solution turns blue, it should be cleaned.

4. Rinsing and soaking

After the chemical treatment, the coin must be soaked in distilled water, changed daily for at least two weeks.

5. Stabilizing the coin after chemical treatment

In order to prevent further corrosion, the coin should be stabilized after chemical treatment by allowing it to soak in a benzotriazole solution for at least three weeks.

6. Drying and sealing

Follow the same instructions as for silver coins (Section A. 4 above).

C. Cleaning excavation coins in large quantities

1. Bronze and copper coins

The method described below is best suited for small bronze coins. It employs a reduction method where oxidation is decomposed by the separation of the oxygen, chlorine, sulphur, etc. from their compounds which make up the oxidations on the coin surface.

On the bottom of a glass or porcelain beaker place a tea saucer and on that a sheet of clean, shiny zinc which has been pierced by nail-sized holes, approximately one every square centimetre. The rough side of the sheet should be upwards; on it place a layer of coins making sure that they do not touch one another. Cover this with another sheet of zinc, then coins, then zinc, etc., in layers near to the top of the vessel, or until all coins are used, making sure to end with a sheet of zinc, this time with the smooth side up. Place another saucer or stone on top to hold the layers in place.

Fill the container with a 2 to 4% solution of sodium hydroxide (lye) and water. A 2% solution is made by adding about 17 gr. of sodium hydroxide (NaOH) to a litre of water. make sure the top-most zinc plate is covered by the solution. The coins may rest 6 to 24 hours, but they should be examined from time to time and should not be left unattended in the solution overnight.

At the end of the process, the coins should be brushed under running water for several minutes and then soaked for several hours with repeated changes of distilled water. Individual coins may require further mechanical or chemical

cleaning or both, for which the procedure under Section A and B above should be followed.

2. Silver coins

Silver coins in good condition should not be treated by this method. These, however, can be submerged in a strong and hot solution of water and washing soda (sodium carbonate, Na_2CO_3) in contact with the edge of an aluminum plate in a glass or porcelain container.

D. Recreating artificial patina on over-cleaned bronze coins

Ancient patina, usually red, brown, or black in colour, is a protective coating on bronze or copper coins, which is formed over centuries. True ancient patina cannot be chemically reproduced. However, an artificial one can be given to over-cleaned coins. Though the hardness of true patina cannot be obtained.

There are several methods which can be used; the easiest one employs ammonia fumes. The treatment works equally well for the entire surface of a coin or just to darken up spots caused during the process of mechanical cleaning.

Ideally a glass beaker with cover should be used, but in fact any glass jar, even with a metal cover, will suffice. Place a piece of sturdy, but light, cloth (material from a bed sheet is fine) on top of a jar which contains a small amount (2 cm.) of fresh, concentrated ammonia. Hold the cloth in place with a rubber band or string, but allow it to sag in the middle to form a depression. Place the coin to be treated on the cloth and screw on the cover. In 15 to 30 minutes the fumes should have given the coin a patina; the longer the coin is left the darker the colour becomes. Always check the cloth while working, because strong ammonia will eat away around the edges of the coin and it will drop into the solution.

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ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

- 7 ALMA. Bedoukian Collection of Artifacts Donated to ALMA. *Armenian Reporter*, (15 February 1992), p. 16; *Asbarez*, Vol. LXXXIV (Saturday, 15 February 1992), No. 9200, p. 4 of *English Weekly* section.); *Armenian Life*, Vol. VII (21 February 1992), No. 20, p. 22; *Armenian Weekly*, Vol. LXII (15 February 1992), No. 7 (29538), p. 7.

In a press release it is announced that Dr. and Mrs. Paul Z. Bedoukian have donated a collection of Armenian artifacts to the Armenian Library and Museum of America. The collection consists of more than 600 pieces. It is noted that Bedoukian is known for his pioneer studies on Armenian coins.

Թերթերու տրուած ծանուցումով մը յայտարարուած է, թէ Դոկտ. և Տիկ. Զարեհ Պ. Բեդուկեան նուիրած են Հայկական Հնագիտական Հաւաքածոյ մը Ամերիկայի Հայ Գրադարանին ու Թանգարանին: Ժողովածոն կը բաղկանայ 600-է աւելի կտորներէ, նշուած է թէ Բեդուկեան ճանցած է Հայկական դրամներու վրայ կատարած իր հսկայական ուսումնասիրութեանց համար:

YTN

8 ARMENIAN REPORTER. Armenian Coins Topic of Lecture Given by G. Derderian in Washington. *Armenian Reporter*, Vol. XXIV (11 April 1991), No. 27, p. 10.
On 17 February 1991, George Derderian lectured on the Artaxiad and Rouspenian coins.

Ժորճ Տէրտէրեան դասախօսած է արտաշեսեան և ռուբենեան դրամներու մասին 17 փետրուար 1991 թ.։ ԵԹՆ

9 ARMENIAN OBSERVER. Azerbaijan Poet, Armenian Hero Subjects of New Coins. *Armenian Observer*, Vol. XII (12 February 1992), No. 13, p.7, illus.

Two new Soviet Union coins marking the anniversaries of Azerbaijan poet Nizami Guyanjevi and Armenian hero David of Sassoun are described. The first is engraved on one ruble and the second on five ruble copper-nickel coins in the Leningrad mint. The diameters are 31 and 35 mm, respectively. YTN

Նկարագրուած են խորհրդային Միութեան երկու նոր յուշամետաղադրամները, թողարկուած յիշատակելու ազրեյձանցի բանաստեղծ Նիզամի Գուլանշէի և Հայոց Հերոս Սասունցի Դաւիթի յոբելաններու Առաջին դրուագուած է մէկ ռուբլինոց և երկրորդը Հինգ ռուբլինոց պղինձ-նիկելի համաձուլուածքէն, Լենինգրադի դրամահատարանին մէջ։ Ըստ կարգի՝ արմատաւորներն են 31 և 35 մմ։ ԵԹՆ

10 CHAMLIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL "BOOK FUND." Help for Armenia. AIM, Vol. II (July, August/September 1991), Nos. 7, 8, p. 5. of each issue.

The advertisement of medals issued to mark the first anniversary of 7 December 1988 earthquake of Armenia, is announced. Metrological data: gold, 3.11 grams, 18 mm; palladium, 3.11 grams, 18 mm; silver, 31.1 grams, 40 mm. YTN

Վաճառքի դրուած են Նումիզմատի ֆիրմայի թողարկած յուշամեդալները, նուիրուած՝ Հայաստանի 7 Դեկտեմբեր 1988 երկրաշարժի առաջին տարիից։ Զարգացիտական տուեաների, ոսկի, 3.11 գրամ, 18 մմ. պալադիում, 3.11 գրամ, 18 մմ. արծաթ, 31.1 գրամ, 40 մմ. ԵԹՆ

11 CRIBB, Joe. *Money*, by Joe Cribb. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., *Eyewitness Books*, 1990, p. 40.

A "lion's face coin ... issued by the Christian Armenian kings of Cilicia, now Lesser Armenia (1187-1218)" is mentioned and the obverse of a copper tank of Levon I is illustrated in this general survey of coinage and other forms of money.

Յիշուած է թէ՛ ճառիւծի դիմագիծով դրամ մը ... թողարկուած՝ Կիլիկիոյ Քրիստոնեայ Հայ Թագաւորներու կողմէ (1187-1218)» և պատկերուած է Լևոն Ա-ի ոսկեդին նկարը դրամներու մասին պատրաստուած այս ընդհանրական աշխատանքին մէջ։ ԵԹՆ

12 DIKIJIAN, Arminé D. Armenian Stamp and Coin Expert Valuable Resource to Community, by AGD. *Armenian Reporter*, Vol. XXIV (4 April 1991), No. 26, p. 5.

Mention is made that Antranig Tarzian gives lectures on Armenian stamps and coins.

Յիշուած է թէ՛ Անգրանիկ Թէրզեան կը դասախօսէ հայկական դրոշմաթուղթերու և դրամներու մասին ԵԹՆ

13 HETTGER, Joel. Coin in Sikorsky Fob Remains Enigma; Watch Fob Honors June 1914 Flight of Russian Biplane, by Joel Hettger. *Coin World*, Vol. XXXIII (3 February 1992), No. 1660, p. 20.

The author describes an Abbasid dirham encased by a gold band belonging to Igor Sikorsky. The dirham was dated A.H. 175 and struck in Armenia. YTN

Հեղինակը կը նկարագրէ Իգոր Սիկորսկիի պատկանող ոսկիէ՛ղակապով շրջապատուած արաբական դիրհամ մը։ Դիրհամը թուագրուած է Հ. 175 և կոխուած՝ Հայաստան ԵԹՆ

14 MacKENZIE, Kenneth M. Rare Paper (Currency) Tokens Used by the Jewish Community in Constantinople, by Kenneth M. MacKenzie. *International Bank Note Society Journal*, Vol. XXX (1991), No. 4, pp. 10-15, illus.

While describing the Jewish tokens printed in Constantinople, an Armenian token belonging to St. John church (Arnavut Köy) is published. YTN

Գոյլով մէջ տպուած հրեական տոմսակներու նկարագրութեան առթիւ, հրատարակուած է Ս. Յովհ. եկեղեցիի (Արնաւուտ Բէյ) պատկանող հայկական տոմսակ մը ԵԹՆ

NOTES ON CLEANING ANCIENT COINS

Formic acid

This method is used in many museums. This method is good for silver coins. For bronze or copper coins different methods should be used.

Prepare a 10% to 15% solution of formic acid. Leave the corroded coin in the solution for about 24 hours or more depending on the degree of oxidation. Then you have to neutralize the effect of the acid, leaving the coin 1/2 an hour in a strong solution of sodium bicarbonate or baking powder.

WARNING

Do not start coin cleaning with your most valuable coins.
Do your initial experimentation with inexpensive pieces.

If a coin has not been cleaned completely take some pounce or any fine cleaning powder, make a paste and rub the coin between your fingers.

To render the coin to its ancient appearance I use the following method. Put some soot on a piece of cotton slightly soaked in lubricating oil and paint the coin, leaving a black film all over the coin. By rubbing between your fingers remove the surplus and leave to dry. If chimney soot is not available, light a candle. Hold a plate over it until sufficient soot accumulates.

Vinegar or lemon juice

If a coin is not corroded, leave the coin in vinegar (white vinegar is 5% acetic acid) or lemon juice for a day or more. Then rub with powder paste mentioned above.

Many ancient copper coins, like Artaxiad coins, have a fine green patina or rust which is very valuable. Removing this is not advisable. Leave it as is. But if the coin is corroded, put in formic acid solution not more than 24 hours. then rub the coin vigorously with any cleansing powder. You may use even a fine metallic brush, but be extremely careful!

Granular dry acid compound

The methods below are good for silver, copper (or bronze coins). Cleaning copper coins with granular dry acid compound (trade name Sparex No. 2) requires constant attention.

In a tin box make a 50% solution of granular dry acid in water. Put the coin inside, keep over a flame, and let it boil for a period of 1 to 5 minutes. Even the most corroded copper coin will be cleaned by this method. After you have treated the coin as mentioned above, neutralize it and apply an artificial patina.

Crow's coin cleaner

Crow's coin cleaner is easy to use, and makes it possible to clean silver coins easily in a minimum of time. There is no loss of metallic silver other than that which was originally oxidized material from the surface of the coin.

Coins to be cleaned are simply immersed in the coin cleaner for two seconds, rinsed with clear water, and blot dried with a soft cloth. This process may be repeated as many times as necessary.

Safety is important in using any cleaner. Crow's cleaner is non-flammable, non-toxic non-abrasive, and completely safe for all precious metals. It leaves no odor or residue on the coins after cleaning.

MESROP ABGARIANS, D.D.S.
Glendale, California



Y. T. Nercessian, Grading of Armenian Coins: I. Ancient Coins



Y. T. Nercessian, Grading of Armenian Coins: I. Ancient Coins



Y. T. Nercessian, *Grading of Armenian Coins: II. Medieval Coins*

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

Specialist in Armenian Coins and Books
8511 Beverly Park Place, Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1920, U.S.A.
ANA ANS ArmNS IBNS RNS SAN

1992

Bulletin No. 15
Supplement D

Tigranes II The Great (95-55 B.C.) copper coins

All coins are catalogued, assigned a Bedoukian number, graded, and in plastic 2x2 envelopes or coin holders. Shipping and insurance for each lot below, \$5.00.

290. Lot 1 Ten AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 2 coins, Tyche overstruck 1 coin, Vahagn standing left 3 coins, Nike advancing left 3 coins, palm-branch curved left 1 coin. Average grade about F or better, 10 pieces..... 350.00
291. Lot 2 Ten AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 4 coins, Vahagn standing left 3 coins, Nike advancing left 2 coins, head of wheat 1 coin. Average grade about fine or better, 10 pieces..... 350.00
292. Lot 3 Ten AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 5 coins, Vahagn standing left 3 coins, Nike advancing left 2 coins. Average grade about F or better, 10 pieces..... 350.00
293. Lot 4 Ten AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 4 coins, Vahagn standing left 3 coins, Nike advancing left 2 coins, cornucopiae 1 coin. Average grade about F or better 10 pieces 350.00

Roupenian silver and copper coins (1296-1375)

All coins are catalogued, assigned a Bedoukian number, graded, and in plastic 2x2 envelopes or coin holders. Shipping and insurance for each lot below, \$2.50.

294. Lot 5a Ten silver trams of Levon I and Hetoum-Zabel. Average grade F to VF, 10 pieces..... 100.00
295. Lot 5b Ten silver trams of Levon I and Hetoum-Zabel. Average grade F to VF, (similar to the the above) 10 pieces..... 100.00
296. Lot 6 Ten copper coins: Levon I 4 tanks, Hetoum I 4 kardezzes, Hetoum II 2 kardezzes. Average grade about F or better, 10 pieces..... 075.00
297. Lot 7 Ten takvorins: of Levon IV 4 coins, Levon IV takvorin overstruck in Arabic, Gosdantin IV 4 takvorins Average grade VG or better, 10 pieces..... 075.00

Bank Notes of Republic of Armenia (1918-1920)

295. Republic of Armenia (1919), 50 rubles., Nercessian BNA III.36a, Pick S675, UNC..... 20.00
296. Republic of Armenia (1919), 100 rubles., Nercessian BNA III.37a, Pick S676, UNC..... 25.00
297. Republic of Armenia (1919), 250 rubles., Nercessian BNA III.38a, Pick S677, UNC..... 30.00
298. Republic of Armenia (1919), 250 rubles as in 297 but VF..... 15.00

Postage stamps of Republic of Armenia (1992)

Note that all profits of these philatelic material will be given to Arm. Relief Society (as we did on Armenian earthquake stamps of USSR) so that they can use them in Armenia on their various charitable projects.

299. One set of 3 stamps, includes 0.20, 2.00, 5.00..... 06.50
300. Same as above, but one full sheet, contains twenty sets of each 3 denominations..... 100.00
301. First day of cancellation (FDC), includes stamps listed in No. 299..... 07.50
302. Souvenir sheet, includes 7.00 unit stamp..... 07.50

LATE ARRIVALS, Tigranes II The Great (95-55 B.C.) copper coins

All coins as they are: not cleaned, not catalogued or graded. Grades, average as unearthed. Shipping and insurance for each lot below, \$350.

303. Lot 8 Six AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 2 coins, Vahagn standing left 1 coin, Nike advancing left 2 coins, tripod 1 coin, 6 pieces..... 140.00
304. Lot 9 Six AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 1 coin, Vahagn standing left 2 coins, Nike advancing left 2 coins, palm-branch 1 coin, 6 pieces..... 130.00
305. Lot 10 Seven AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 2 coins, cornucopiae curved right 1 coin, Vahagn standing left 1 coin, Nike advancing left 2 coins, palm-brach 1 coin, 7 pieces. 160.00

Bigger wholesale lots can be prepared from those coins which have accumulated in stock. If you are interested please contact us for a quote. Satisfaction guaranteed. On approval.

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July 1, 1992

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

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1992

Bulletin No. 15

Supplement E

306.	Tigranes II (95-55 B.C.). Four AE with following reverses: Nike advancing left 2 coins (each F+), head of wheat 1 (F+), cornucopiae 1 (-VF), 4 pieces.....	210.00
307.	Levon I (1196-1219), five silver half double trams (-VF to VF), 5 pieces.....	350.00
308.	Levon I , regular silver trams (F to VF), 10 pieces.....	095.00
309.	as above but 20 trams (F to VF)	180.00
310.	as above but 50 trams (F to VF)	400.00
311.	as above but 100 trams (F to VF)	775.00
312.	Levon II (1270-1288), silver trams struck in Sis(-VF), 2 pieces.....	070.00
313.	Levon II , silver trams struck in Ayas (F+, VF), 2 pieces.....	150.00
314.	Levon IV (1320-1342), silver akvorins (average, VG+ to -F), 15 pieces.....	150.00
315.	Levon the Usurper (1363-1365), silver takvorins (average, VG+ to -F), 4 pieces.....	120.00
316.	Raymond Roupen of Antioch (1201-1222), grandson of Roupen II, the brother of Levon I, silver billons (average, -F to VF), 3 pieces.....	175.00
317.	as above (average, -F to VF), 6 pieces.....	325.00
318.	as above (average, -F to VF), 9 pieces.....	450.00

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July 26, 1992



Series I

Volume XVIII, No. 4

December 1992

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ARMENIAN
NUMISMATIC
JOURNAL

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Series I

Vol. XVIII, No. 4

December 1992

EDITORIAL

BANK NOTES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE

After the First World War, political turmoil in the infant Republic of Armenia was worse than what it is today in post-Soviet Republic of Armenia. There are numerous parallels and many differences. However, the point we would like to focus on is that in 1918, the ordinary people were concerned primarily with survival and procuring the necessities of life.

During that chaotic period no organized effort was made to preserve for posterity a few specimens of each type of bank note issued by the Republic. Also, we do not know how many emissions were made. These are some areas which remain totally obscure to us. If information on the bank notes exists in the archives of Republic of Armenia, the curators assigned to the State Museum of Armenian History in Yerevan should take advantage of the relaxed political atmosphere to research and publish all the material relating to the bank notes printed in Armenia.

Additionally, there are several examples we would like to see. In 1986, when I had the pleasure of examining the bank notes preserved in the Museum, there were many missing issues. It remains unknown to us if the quality and quantity of the collection has improved since that time. The bank notes we would like to see include the issues of Karakilise and Sardarabat as well as others not illustrated in *Bank Notes of Armenia* (Los Angeles, Armenian Numismatic Society, *Special Publication No. 6*, 1988). Note that since *BNA* was published, we have been able to locate, study and publish Vagharshapat and Kedabek bank notes.

The Museum has preserved a sizable collection of paper tokens published from 1918-1920. Understandably, the understaffed condition of this institution may not be conducive to assign manpower for research, study, and publication of these tokens. However, it will enhance the prestige of the Museum if gradual attempts are made to publish these tokens. A few years from now it will be impossible to find "contemporary" people and research the circumstances which forced the genesis of tokens, issued by organizations, merchants, and private individuals. If it is difficult to obtain information about the bank notes or tokens published seventy-five years ago and study them, what will happen a few centuries from now?

The pages of *Armenian Numismatic Journal* are wide open to material relating Armenian tokens as well as the bank notes. All we can wish to the curators of the State Museum of Armenian History is "bari hachoghutiwn" (good luck).

Y. T. Nercessian

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LETTERS

...Your surface-mail package arrived here today, it was intact. The offprints and the way you bind the offprints is very professional; I like the silver binding more than if it would have been a black binding. Thank you very much, also for the other offprints you included. I am specially interested in your researches on the Armenian tiara and on Armenian counterfeit detection. I will read them carefully in my leisure time.

You and your family are really performing important work in keeping up the Armenian numismatic heritage which means a good part of Armenian culture. Keep up your marvelous work.

Emanuel Sevrugian
Heidelberg

Saw the enclosed article on Armen Vartan in *World Coin News* (7-6-92), wasn't to sure if you knew or not.

Also, in the last and recent newsletter, Paul Bedoukian wants to write a book on Armenian stamps. Please let him know for me, that if he needs help, I'd be willing to loan my collection. Besides stamps, I have 16th-17th century Armenian stampless letters, and many postal covers that are very interesting....

Stefan Karadian N8BGD
West Bloomfield, MI

DONATIONS

(Period ending 30 September 1992)

Anonymous Donations.....	1000.00	Karadian, S.....	0017.00
Der Houghasian, H.....	0025.00	Movsessian, G.....	0050.00
Hagopian, L.....	0012.00	Sarian, L.....	0100.00
Hajinian, Ch.....	0050.00	Setian, Ch.....	0075.00
Jamgochian, N.....	0050.00	Terzian, J. M.....	0007.00
Jernukian, A.....	0012.00		

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dear Member,

Our records indicate that your membership dues for 1993 are payable at this time.

Payment of your \$8.00 (\$10 for non-members or subscribers) will insure the uninterrupted delivery of *Armenian Numismatic Journal*.

Because of computerized mailing system, each late payment costs the Society extra effort for administration and follow-up letters, so prompt payment would be appreciated very much.

We hope to hear from you soon. If you have any comments please do not hesitate to write a letter to the editor of the *Armenian Numismatic Journal*.

Sincerely,

Y. T. Nercessian,
Secretary

A SMALL HOARD OF LEVON II TRAMS

By Y. T. Nersessian

Historical Background

Levon II was one of the two sons of King Hetoum I (1226-1270) and grandson of Levon I (1198-1219).¹ Shortly before Levon II's ascendancy to the throne of Cilician Armenian kingdom, the Mamluks had invaded Cilicia while Hetoum I was in Tabriz to seek military assistance of the Ilkhanid Abagha Khan. While Hetoum was away, his two sons, Toros and Levon were in charge of the kingdom. The Mamluk forces, outnumbering the Armenians, overran Cilicia, Toros was killed and Levon was captured as a prisoner of war. Hetoum returned with a Mongol army but was nevertheless forced to sign a peace treaty with the Mamluks. His son, Levon, the crown prince, was traded in exchange for a Mamluk prisoner of war held by the Mongols. In 1269, Hetoum retired to a monastery (where he died on October 28, 1970) and Levon took the helm of the Armenian kingdom.

Levon II (1270-1289) was crowned king of Cilician Armenia on January 6, 1271, in Tarsus on Armenian Christmas day,² delayed possibly for the mourning period in memory of Hetoum I. The reign of Levon II witnessed continuation of wars. In 1274, the Mamluk Sultan Baybars, without pretext attacked Cilicia. Some of the barons chose to withdraw their soldiers from the battle, leaving the king too weak to offer an adequate defense. The Mamluks captured Adana and Mamistra and their people were put to sword. Sis, the capital of the kingdom, resisted valiantly and never surrendered. Tarsus was captured; the royal palace and cathedral were burned down, the treasury looted, fifteen thousand people were killed, and ten thousand were carried to Egypt as prisoners or slaves. On their retreat, the port of Ayas was taken and entire Christian population of the city was killed.

The Armenians were not completely crushed, however. Rallying around the king, the barons divided their forces into two parts. Constable Smpad, the king's uncle and commander-in-chief, launched a frontal assault while Levon took the second army around to trap the enemy and strike from the rear. Smpad chased the Mamluks into the Taurus Mountain passes where they were surrounded and dealt a mortal blow. According to an Armenian historian, the dead impeded the flight of survivors. The Mamluk sultan, Baybars, died from wounds he received from an Armenian archer.

The victory was costly for the Armenians. They lost several hundred knights and their beloved commander-in-chief, Smpad, who was killed accidentally when his horse hurled him against a tree. He had been not only a brilliant military general, but also a scholar. In addition to writing a short chronicle of the period, he prepared books on jurisprudence including a translation of the *Assizes of Antioch* into Armenian. This translation is very valuable since the original text of the *Assizes* is lost.

¹ V. M. Kurkjian, *A History of Armenia* (New York, 1974), pp. 246-250; J. de Morgan, *The History of the Armenian People* (Boston, 1965), pp. 237-240; S. Der Nersessian, "The Kingdom of Cilician Armenia," *A History of the Crusades*, Vol. II (Philadelphia, 1962), pp. 654-655; P. Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* [hereafter CCA] (New York, 1962; revised edition, Danbury, Connecticut, 1979), pp. 12-13. Note that the material from references has been used freely throughout the paper.

² M. Omanian, *Azgabatoum* (Constantinople, 1912), Vol. II, col. 1680 (in Armenian).

During the year 1281, there were new hostilities between the Mongols and Mamluks. Levon who had a treaty of alliance with the Mongols joined the battle against the Mamluks with 25,000 men. The allies were defeated and Levon had no choice but come to terms with the Mamluks. The peace terms were extremely severe and humiliating for the Armenians.³ Nevertheless, they gave the Armenians eleven years of peace and ultimately prosperity, since Ayas remained one of the few (if not the only) Christian seaports in the eastern Mediterranean for trade between Europe and the Orient.

In this short period of peace, Levon II and his wife, Queen Keran, channeled all their energy to rebuild the devastated country. They championed education and culture, founded numerous schools and the Medzkar monastery college which later became very famous. The royal scriptorium produced some of the greatest masterpieces of Armenian manuscript illuminations. Levon was truly mourned at his death on February 6, 1289. He fathered eleven children of whom nine were alive at his death.⁴

The coinage of Levon II includes gold, silver, and copper coins.⁵ The only known gold coin was lost in the Istanbul fire of 1831.⁶ His silver coins include pre-coronation Hetoum-Zabel type trams,⁷ new silver trams,⁸ half trams with⁹ and without¹⁰ inscription; copper coins include tank¹¹ and kardez.¹² Basmadjian¹³ mentions that half trams of 8 mm diameter exist. Whereabouts of these coins are not known; neither Sibilian nor Bedoukian have catalogued them.

Initially, the silver coins of Levon II were struck with the same standards of his father Hetoum I. Under the pressures of war and the tribute he had to give the Mamluks, the silver coins were debased over a period of eighteen years. His silver coins served as a transition between the tram and takvorin. From Bedoukian's CCA, it appears that early issues of Levon's new trams have a silver content of 90 percent.¹⁴ Somewhere in the middle of his reign, the silver content is reduced to 65 percent,¹⁵ and at the end the silver content is as low as 54 percent.¹⁶

New tram (silver coin) description.

Obv.: King on horseback to right, holding reins with left hand, and with right a cross or royal staff with two bars extending over his right shoulder. Various field marks. The circular Armenian inscription reads,
 ԿԵՆՈՐ ԹԱԳԱՆՈՐ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ ՀԱՅՍ (Levon king of all the Armenians).

Rev.: An Armenian crowned lion walking to left (or right), with left paw raised. Behind him is a cross with two bars. The circular Armenian inscription reads,
 ԿՇԻՆԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ Ի (Struck in the city of Sis).

³ al-Makrizi, *Histoire des sultans Mamelukes de l'Egypte*, trans. by Quatremère (Paris, 1837), Vol. II, pp. 1, 201-202.

⁴ *History of the Armenian People*, Vol. III (Yerevan, 1976), p. 799.

⁵ P. Z. Bedoukian, CCA, pp. 86-88.

⁶ C. Sibilian, *Classification of Roupenian Coins* (Vienna, 1892), p. 37 (in Armenian).

⁷ P. Z. Bedoukian, CCA, p. 290, Nos. 1424-1427.

⁸ *ibid.*, pp. 290-304, Nos. 1428-1521.

⁹ *ibid.*, p. 304, Nos. 11522-1523.

¹⁰ *ibid.*, pp. 304-307, Nos. 1524-1539.

¹¹ *ibid.*, p. 312, No. 1570.

¹² *ibid.*, pp. 307-313, Nos. 1540-1572.

¹³ K. J. Basmadjian, *Numismatique générale de l'Arménie* (Venice, 1936), p. 158 (in Armenian).

¹⁴ *ibid.*, p. 290, No. 1429.

¹⁵ *ibid.*, p. 294, No. 1454.

¹⁶ *ibid.*, p. 304, No. 1519.

Comments on the Hoard

The purchase of a parcel of silver coin was mentioned in a previous article.¹⁷ Thirty-two trams of Levon II were included in this parcel. The Levon II hoard in itself is small but includes variants not catalogued previously.

Examination of the hoard demonstrates that it has been picked over, since the grade of the individual coins ranges from F (fine) to VF (very fine). In a small hoard of this size one would not expect very many EF (extremely fine) or better grade coins. However, it is obvious that even within the existing quality range the most desirable pieces have been removed.

Coins of King Levon II are relatively scarce compared to those of King Levon I, and hoard discoveries of Levon II are much less frequent than those of Levon I. In reviewing *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature*,¹⁸ Only two statements relate to the discovery of Levon II coins; one of them is on a copper coin and the other on 2 silver coins. Reviewing *Armenian Coin Hoards*,¹⁹ we find two reports on Levon II trams. Although Armenian numismatics has been studied by European and Armenian scholars, the first and only scholarly essay on the trams of King Levon II was authored in 1985 by Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian²⁰ who studied in depth two Levon II tram hoards. His report included stylistic analysis, obverse/reverse legends and die linkage. In future reports, it would be useful to see incorporated the Bedoukian corpus number and the weight of each coin.

Cataloguing the Hoard

Dr. Bedoukian's stylistic classification system seems to be adequate. However, because of the hoard differences, the obverse sketches were not sufficient to handle this new hoard even though it is one tenth of his combined two hoards; also for the reverses distinction must be made whether the lion is walking, holding the cross, or standing on four legs.

The hoard includes three pieces which have white material resembling dirt on the surface. It may be speculated that these are intruders; perhaps the dirt was solidified and just could not be cleaned as others were. Most of the coins have been cleaned and had a bright shining patina.

Dr. Bedoukian's classification,²¹ according to completeness of legend, was followed to classify the coins of Levon II in Table I. The first column in the catalogue gives the assigned specimen number. The second column references to the corpus number in Bedoukian's *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*. The obverse Armenian legend is at the top of the block of coins, starting with specimen number. The reverse Armenian inscription is printed in the third column. The fourth and fifth columns indicate the obverse style and reverse design patterns, respectively (see Figures 1 and 2.). Column six is the weight of the coin in grams. Columns seven and eight give the obverse/reverse die varieties. Note that odd numbers have been assigned to the obverse dies and even numbers to the reverse dies. An asterisk in the last column indicates these specimens illustrated in the plate.

Table II cross references the drawings to the plates where illustrations of coins display those patterns.

¹⁷ Y. T. Nercessian, "A Hoard of Levon III Takvorins," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I. Vol. XVIII (1992), pp. 3-12).


¹⁸ Y. T. Nercessian, *Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature* (Los Angeles, 1984), Nos. 292 and 331.


¹⁹ P. Z. Bedoukian, *Armenian Coin Hoards* (Los Angeles, 1987), pp. 46-47, Nos. 37-38.

²⁰ P. Z. Bedoukian, "Two Hoards of Levon II Trams," *Numismatic Chronicle*, Vol. 145 (1985), pp. 123-135, pls. 16-19.

²¹ See above, note 8.

Table I. Catalogue of Levon II trams

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
ՀԵՌՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ ՀԱՅՍ							
01	1438V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ Ի	1a	A1	2.77	01 02	*
ՀԵՌՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ ՀԱՅ							
02	1445V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	1a	A1	2.76	03 04	
ՀԵՌՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ *ՍԻ							
03	1453V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ ԻՍ	1b	A1	2.83	05 06	*
04	1455	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	1d	A2	2.72	07 08	*
05	1455	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	1d	A2	2.62	07 10	
06	1458	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍԻՍԻ	1d	A3	2.73	07 12	*
ՀԵՌՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ԱՄԵՆԱՅՆ Ա							
07	1465V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ Ի	1e	A4	2.71	09 14	*
ՀԵՌՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ԱՆԵՆԱՅՆ *							
08	1477V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ Ի	1b	A2	2.85	11 16	*
ՀԵՌՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ԱԻՆԵԱՅՆ *							
09	1477V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	1c	A2	2.77	13 18	*
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈ							
10	1487	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2a	D3	2.63	15 20	
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՍ							
11	1489V	+ԾԻՆԵՍՍ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍՍ	2a	B1	2.58	17 22	*
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅԻՈԾ							
12	1495V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	3a	C1	2.82	19 24	*
13	1495V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	3a	C3	2.63	21 26	*
14	1495V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	3a	C2	2.70	23 28	
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅԻՈ							
15	1496V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	3b	C2	2.42	25 28	*
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՍԾ							
16	1498	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2g	D1	2.56	27 30	
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՍԾ							
17	1498V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2g	D1	2.66	29 32	*
18	1498V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2g	D1	2.61	29 34	
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅԱ							
19	1509V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2f	D1	3.00	31 36	*
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՍ							
20	1511	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2b	D3	2.58	33 38	*
21	1513	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2a	D1	2.66	35 40	
22	1513V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ԱԻՍ	2a	D1	2.80	37 42	

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
23	1515	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2c	D1	2.42	39 44	
24	1515	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2c	D1	2.41	39 44	
25	1515	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2e	D1	2.59	41 46	*
26	1515	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2c	D2	2.74	39 48	*
27	1515V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2c	D2	2.73	39 48	*
28	1515a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2c	D1	2.62	39 44	
29	1515a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2c	D3	2.87	43 38	
30	1515a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2c	D3	2.65	39 50	
31	1516	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2d	D2	2.68	45 48	
32	1516	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԶԱՂԱՔՆ Ի ՍԻՍ	2d	D1	2.86	45 52	*

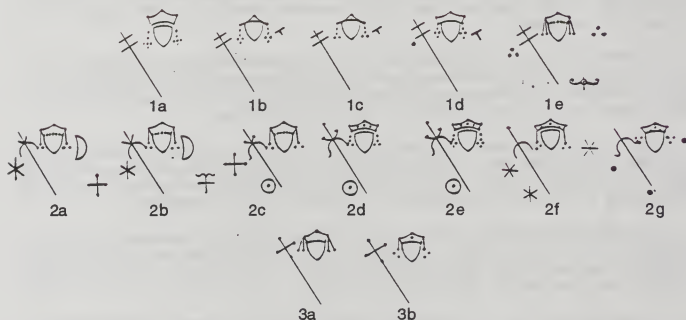


Fig. 1. Levon II tram obverse style patterns

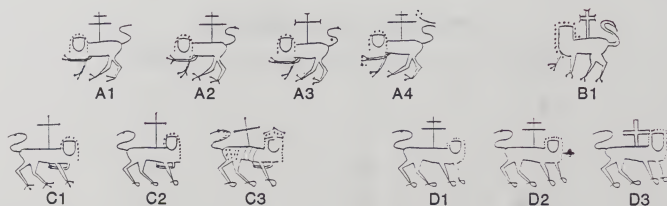


Fig. 2. Levon II tram reverse design patterns

Table II. Levon II coin design-plate cross reference

1a	1	2e	25	B1	11
1b	3, 8	2f	19	C1	12
1c	9	2g	17	C2	15
1d	4, 6	3a	15	C3	13
1e	7	3b	12, 13	D1	17, 19, 25
2a	11	A1	3	D2	26, 27
2b	20	A2	4, 8, 9	D3	20
2c	26, 27	A3	6		
2d	32	A4	7		

Stylistic Grouping of Levon II Trams

A cataloguer of the coins of Levon II encounters many stylistic variations. Perhaps this can be attributed to the fact that his new trams were a transition issue between the high quality trams of his predecessors and takvorins of his successors. The obverse of takvorin design (equestrian to right) was frozen and most of his successors followed this design. The reverse of Levon II takvorins have the lion to left and right. All his successors maintained the "lion to right" on the reverses of their takvorins.

The king's staff, crown, crown's ornaments and field marks dominate the field and have been utilized for obverse stylistic classification (see Fig. 1) which basically falls into three varieties. In variety 1 the staff is a patriarchal cross with two horizontal arms. In variety 2 the king holds a royal staff. In variety 3 the king holds a regular cross with one horizontal arm.

The reverse styles are based on the cross and lion (see Fig. 2). In variety A the lion is walking to left with a cross behind him. In variety B the lion is standing to left on four legs with a cross behind him. In variety C the lion is to right and left forearm is folded and holding a cross behind him. In variety D the lion is to right, standing on four legs and a cross is behind him.

The 32 new trams catalogued in this paper are represented by 23 obverse and 26 reverse die varieties. There are quite a few coins which are very similar to each other but because of iconographic peculiarity they are not identical to each other and not from the same dies. Coins identical to each other are so indicated by the die number.

Obverse varieties do not have equal distribution of coins. On 28 percent of the coins the king is holding a patriarchal cross (type 1), on 60 percent, he is holding a royal staff and not a cross (type 2), and on 12 percent he is holding a cross with one arm (type 3). On reverse varieties 28 percent of the coins the lion is walking to left (type A), on 12 percent the lion is to right standing on three legs and holding a cross with one leg folded backwards (type C), and on 56 percent the lion is to right and standing on four legs.

Table III. Obverse versus reverse design

Obv.	1	2	3	Total
A	9			9
B				1
C			4	4
D		18		18
Total	9	19	4	32

Table III summarizes the obverse styles and reverse designs. Bar chart I gives the obverse style variety percentage distribution (A, 28.13%; B, 3.12; C, 12.50%; D, 56.25%). Bar chart II gives the reverse design pattern variety percentage distribution (1, 28.12%; 2, 59.38%; 3, 12.50%).

The average weight of Levon II new trams, based on table I weight data, is 2.69 grams. Coins which have their weight as average weight or heavier, fall in three obverse and three reverse type patterns. In Dr. Bedoukian's corpus the average weight for Levon II new trams is 2.65 grams.²² The metrological weight distribution of Levon II new trams, based on obverse/reverse design, are tabulated in tables IV and V, respectively.

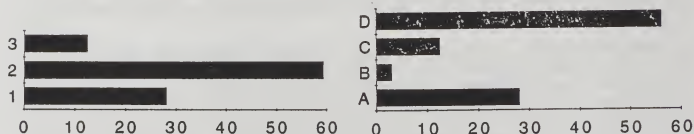


Chart I. Obverse design percentage distribution Chart II. Reverse design percentage distribution

Table IV. Weight distribution based on obverse design

	Under 2.49	2.50 2.59	2.60 2.69	2.70 2.79	2.80 2.89	2.90 2.99	3.00 3.09	3.10 3.19	3.20 Over	Total
1			1	6	2					10
2	2	4	7	2	3		1			19
3	1		1	1	1					4
Total	3	4	9	9	6		1			32

Table V. Weight distribution based on reverse cross

	Under 2.49	2.50 2.59	2.60 2.69	2.70 2.79	2.80 2.89	2.90 2.99	3.00 3.09	3.10 3.19	3.20 Over	Total
A	1			6	2					9
B		1								1
C	1		1	1	1					4
D	2	3	7	2	3		1			18
Total	4	4	8	9	6		1			32

²² P. Z. Bedoukian, *CCA*, p. 111, English editions; p. 122, Armenian edition. Note that eight different type 33 coins (representing 264 new trams catalogued in the corpus) from the Bedoukian metrological data have been averaged to obtain 2.65 grams average weight.

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

15 MARIBIAN, Zaruhi. *Dramnerê khosum en* [The Coins Speak] - *Դրամները խոսում են, գրեց՝ Ջարուհի Մարիբյան*. Mesrobian Reporter, Vol. VIII (February-March 1991-1992), No. 2, p. [9] from back. In Armenian.

It is reported that Y. T. Necessian gave a lecture and exhibit on the coins of Armenia to the students of the Armenian Mesrobian School in Pico Rivera, California. YTN

Տեղեկագրում է, թէ Ե. Թ. Ներսիսյան դասախոսութիւն ու ցուցահանդէս տուած է Հայաստանի դրամներուն մասին, Մեսրոպեան Ազգային Վարժարանի աշակերտներուն, Փիքո Ռիվերա, ԵՔՆ

16 NERCESSIAN, Y. T. Reference to God on Medieval Armenian Coins, by Y. T. Necessian. *Armach*, Vol. IX (1992), No. 1 (17), pp. 39-49, pls., Armenian summary.

The author reviews the Armenian coins where the name of God is inscribed. The coins issued by the following are catalogued: barons, Gosdantin I (1095-1099), copper; Toros I (1100-1123), copper; Toros II (1144-1168), copper; Roupen II (1175-1187), copper; Levon II (1187-1196), copper; kings, Levon I (1196-1219), gold coins with single lion and two lions, coronation trams with single lion and two lions, double tram, half double tram, regular tram, half tram, billons with Latin and Armenian legend; Hetoum I (1226-1271), regular tram, half tram; Levon II (1270-1289), Hetoum-Zabel type tram; Smpad (1296-1298), Levon I type tram, crudely struck tram; Gosdantin I (1298-1299), tram; Oshin (1308-1320), coronation tram, half coronation tram; Levon V (1374-1375), billon; Kiurke II (1043-1100), copper.

Author

Հեղինակը կը քննէ հայկական դրամները, որոնց վրայ Աստուծոյ անունը արձանագրուած է: Յուշակագրուած են հետեւեալներուն կողմէ թողարկուած դրամները՝ իշխաններ՝ Կոստանդին Ա (1095-1099), պղինձ. Թորոս Ա (1100-1123), պղինձ. Թորոս Բ (1144-1168), պղինձ. Ռուբէն Բ (1175-1187), պղինձ. Լևոն Ա (1187-1196), պղինձ. Թագաւորներ՝ Լևոն Ա (1196-1219), մի և երկու առիւծով ոսկեդրամներ, մի և երկու առիւծով օծման դրամներ, երկդրամ, կէս երկդրամ, հասարակ դրամ, կէս դրամ, լատինատառ ու հայատառ բիլլոններ. Հեթում Ա (1226-1271), հասարակ դրամ, կէս դրամ. Լևոն Բ (1270-1289), Հեթում-Չապէի լի տեսակ դրամ. Մմբատ (1296-1298), Լևոն Ա-ի տեսակ դրամ, կոշտ դրամ. Կոստանդին Ա (1298-1299), դրամ. Օշին (1308-1320, օծման դրամ, օծման կէս դրամ. Լևոն Ե (1374-1375), բիլլոն. Կորիկէ Բ (1043-1100), պղինձ:

Հեղինակը

17 SARYAN, Levon A. Careful Searching Leads to Opportunities in the Acquisition of Rare Armenian Coins, by L. A. Saryan. *Celator* Vol. VI (July 1992), No. 7, pp. 40-41, illus.

The author describes the acquisition of the following rare Armenian coins: Tigranes the Great (95-56 B.C.), bronze, Tigranes/Antiochus I Theos of Commagene; Tigranes IV (8-5 B.C.), bronze, Victory with outstretched arms; Levon I (1198-1219), double tram; Hetoum I (1226-1270), two Hetoum-Kalqobad bilingual trams; Hetoum I (1226-1270), Hetoum-Kalikhusew bilingual tram dated 643 A.H./A.D. 1245. Descriptions and metrological data of all coins are provided. YTN

Հեղինակը կը նկարագրէ թէ ինչպէս ինք կը ցու ձեռք բերել հետեւեալ հայկական հաղուադատ դրամները՝ Տիգրան Մեծ (95-56 Ն.Ք.), բրոնզ, Տիգրան/Կոմմազենէի Անդիոքոս Ա Թէոս. Տիգրան Դ (8-5 Ն.Ք.), բրոնզ, Յաղթանակը երկարած բազուկներով. Լևոն Ա (1198-1219), երկդրամ. Հեթում Ա (1226-1270), երկու Հեթում-Քալզոպատի երկլեզուական դրամներ. Հեթում Ա (1226-1270), Հեթում-Քալիխուսովի երկլեզուական դրամ թուագրուած 643 Հ.Յ.Ք. 1245, Տրուած են դրամները՝ նկարագրութիւններն ու չափադատական տուեալները:

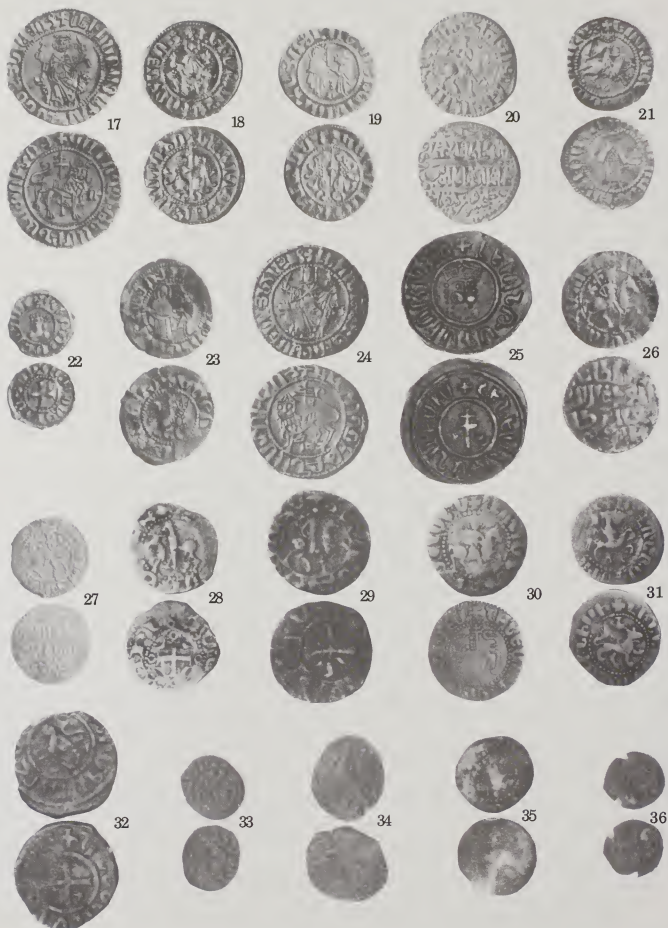
ԵՔՆ

18 SARYAN, Levon A. From Armenia to Chicago — Armenian Medals from the Windy City, by Leon A. Saryan. *Centinel*, Vol. XXXIX (Winter 1991-1992), No. 4, pp. 14-18, illus.

An historical background is given to the Armenian community in Chicago and the following medals and tokens struck by All Saints Armenian Apostolic Church in (Continued on page 76)



Y. T. Nercessian, Grading of Armenian Coins: I. Ancient Coins



Y. T. Nercessian, Grading of Armenian Coins: II. Medieval Coins



Y. T. Nercessian, A Small Hoard of Levon II Trams

**ՄՆԴԱԱՅԻՆ ՅՈՒՇԱՐՁԱՆՆԵՐ
ԽԱՁԱՏՈՒՐ ԱՐՈՎԵԱՆԻ ԴԻՄԱՊԱՏԿԵՐՈՎ**

Հայ դասական գրականության ներկայացուցիչներից ինչպես Արտեմիանի կերպարը, չնայած պատկերազարկան նկարների սղուծման, մի քանի անգամ արժանանցել է մեդալազործների ուշադրությանը՝ ժամանակի առումով այդ մեդալների պատմությունը ընդգրկում է ութ տասնամյակ և քանակապես դրանք շատ քիչ Միս կողմից, այդ մեդալները նաև մեդալազործների տարբեր դպրոցների ստեղծագործության արժանիք են՝ յաճախ իրարամերձ, բայց և ընդունելի

Խ. Արտեմիանի նուիրումած առաջին պակետը ստեղծվեց 1912 թ., իրերի բերումով, հայրենիքից հեռու՝ Ֆրանսիայում, Առաջին երեսույթ պատկերում է զորդի դիմաքանդակը մինչև կուրծքը՝ դեպի ձախ կիսաթիվ՝ Դիմաքանդակի ներքևում գրում է «Խ. ԱՐՈՎԵԱՆ», վերևում՝ ծննդեան ու մահուան թվականներն են՝ «1803—1848»: Պատկերի այդ կողմում ֆրանսերեն լեզվով գրում է հեղինակի անունը, պակետի պատրաստման տարեթիվը և վայրը՝ «A. Ter-Maroukian, 1912, Paris»: Այն բրոնզից է, Չափերը՝ 56x80 մմ:

Խ. Արտեմիանի դիմաքանդակը ներկայացուցած է համեմատաբար բարձր ռելիեֆի վրա Գրողը պատկերում է երիտասարդ հասակում՝ Նրա խիստ ու կանոնադր սանրում է մազերը, դիմաքանդակի կատարելության հասնող մշակումը և բարձր օժիքով վերաբերվում, որի միջից երևում է վերնաշապիկը փողկապով, պատկերին հաղորդում են ջերմություն՝ Գրականագործը կերտել է մեծ մտածողի, ազնիւ մարդու, պոետական խառնուրդի և հանրապետական դիմաքանդակ, որը չնայած փոքր չափերի մոնումենտալ ստեղծագործություն է:

Հայ կերպարանության անուանի ներկայացուցիչ քանդակագործ Անդրեաս Տէր-Մարուքեանը (1871-1919) այն արուեստագործներից է, որի կենսագրական և ստեղծագործական ուղին մինչև օրս դժուարությամբ է բացայայտում: Միայն 20-րդ դ. 80-ական թվականների սկզբներին գերական աշխարհին լայնորէ դարձան Ա. Տէր-Մարուքեանի մեդալային ստեղծագործությունները: Այնուամենայնիւ, Ա. Տէր-Մարուքեանին, որպէս մեդալագործ, հարցերի ամբողջական ըմբռնմամբ, տակաւին չէ բացայայտում, քանի որ մեդալային չէ նրա ստեղծագործությունների մօտաւոր քանակը՝ Դիտելով Խ. Արտեմիանի նուիրումած պակետը, մէկ անգամ ևս համոզում են, որ մեդալային ստեղծումը դիմապատկերի ներկայացման հնարաւորութիւնները անսահման են, իսկ մեդալային ստեղծումը՝ բարդ ինքնուրույն արուեստ ինչպէս նշուեց, Խ. Արտեմիանի ներկայացուցած է դեպի ձախ կիսաթիվ՝ Մակայն նրա հայեացքի ուղղութիւնը, պատկերի և հարթության հակադրութիւնները ստեղծում են այնպիսի տպաւորութիւն, որ դիմաքանդակը դիտելի է ամբողջութեամբ, բոլոր կողմերից: Դա քանդակագործ-մեդալագործի հմտութեան արտայայտութիւններից է:

Ա. Տէր-Մարուքեանը պակետներ ու մեդալներ է նուիրել նաև հայ մշակութի անուանի գործիչներ Բ. Պատկանեանին, Պ. Աղամեանին, Ղ. Աղայեանին, Գր. Արծրունուն, որոնք ունենալով կոմպոզիցիոն լուծումների ընդհանրութիւն, հեղինակը հասել է դիմապատկերների երբեքաշխարհը բացայայտելու կատարելութեան: Ա. Տէր-Մարուքեանը հեղինակ է նաև մի քանի մեդալների, որը նույնպէս կարելի է դասել մեդալային արուեստի ստեղծագործութիւնների թուրք ինչպէս լայնորէ է, գեղարուեստական արտայայտութեան ազատութիւնը, լատկապէս արդի ժամանակներում, հնարաւորութիւն են ընձեռնում ստեղծել մեդալային յուշաձաններ ցանկացած ձևի և արտայայտման միջոցի:

Ա. Տէր-Մարուքեանի յիշել ստեղծագործութիւնը, որն ի դէպ հրատարակում է առաջին անգամ, արժանի է քննութեան և որպէս մանրաքանդակ ու իր ստեղծման պատմութեան աւիթթով: Մանրաքանդակը կարելի է անուանել «Խ. Արտեմիանը դաստիարակ-մանկավարժ»: Այն իրենից ներկայացնում է գիւղական ներսոյթը (ինտերիեր), որտեղ անկախոն նստած ու կանգնած են տարբեր հասակի գիւղացիներ (19-րդ դ. կէսերի գեղանկարով, սղոյմարդիկ՝ փափախներով, կանայք՝ գլխաւորներով), նրանց դիմաց նստած է երիտասարդ Արտեմիանը սնդուկի վրայ՝ ձեռքին բաց գիրք: Սենեակի մէջնսեղում է ջրի սփոր և երկու պնակ: Մանրաքանդակը երիզում է բաւական լայն գօտի, որը վերելում կիսակլոր է հեղինակը ամբողջ կոմպոզիցիային,

¹ Henry Sarkissian, "Medals Created by Andreas Ter-Maroukian," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, Ser. I, Vol. IV (1978), pp. 161-167; «Անդրեաս Տէր-Մարուքեանը մեդալագործ», Լրագիր Հասարակական Գիտությունների, (1981), թիւ 10, էջ 61-66:

թւում է թէ, հաղորդել է բեմի տեաք Երիզող գոտին զարդարուած է իրար յաջորդող ողկոյզով և տեքնով: Ներքեւում ունի գրութիւն՝ ՇԻՐՎԱՆՊԱՆՔԻՆ ՀԵՂԻՆԱԿԻԿ, ՏԻԽԻՄ, 22-5-1911 թ. իր 30-ամեայ յօրեկեանի առթիւ: (Նկար թիւ 1)

Հետաքրքրական պահ է ընտրել քանդակագործը, թւում է ընթերցողը ստեղծագործութեան դրամատիկ պահերից մէկն է, երբ լարուածութիւնը հասել է իր գագաթնակէտին, իսկ ունկնդիրները սպասելիքներ և նեարդային վիճակը անսպասելի ուշադրութեան: Ն. Արզումանը և իրեն շրջապատող անձնավորութիւնները կարծես դարձել են մի ամբողջութիւն, թէև իւրաքանչիւր կերպար առանձին անհատականութիւն է իր ներքնաշխարհով: Սակայն ներկայացուած պահին նրանք բոլորը դարձել են համազարկի և համախմբուած մեծ Լուսաւորչի շուրջը: Ա. Տէր-Մարութեանը երկար տարիներ աշխատել է Ն. Արզումանի կերպարի վրայ: Նրա հետաքրքրութիւնների արտայայտման դրսևորումներից է նաև այս մանրաքանդակը: Այն գիպսից է և արժանի մեծ քանակով մետաղով ձուլելու համար: Չափերը՝ լայնութիւնը 29 սմ, բարձրութիւնը 28 սմ (պահուում է Չարենցի գրականութեան և արուեստի թանգարանում, թիւ 1062):

Ինչպէս յայտնի է, Շիրվանզադէի գրական գործունէութեան 30-ամեակը լրանում էր 1910 թ., սակայն յօրեկեանական երեկոյ տոնի ունեցաւ 1911 թ. Մայիսի 22-ին՝ Գնեսարկուղ մանրաքանդակը կապուած է իրեալ յօրեկեանական երեկոյի հետ: Ա. Տէր-Մարութեանի նուիրատուութիւնը և, ըստ երևութիւնի, նրա ամենիլական մասնակցութիւնը երեկոյին պատահական էէր: Վերջինք Շիրվանզադէի շնորհ տողերը: Ա. Տէր-Մարութեանի մասին նրա կենսագրական վեպի րոմից գրեցի՝ Սանրաքանդակը իւրովի բացայայտում է հայկական մշակոյթի անուանի ներկայացուցիչներ: Ա. Տէր-Մարութեանի ու Ալ. Շիրվանզադէի մտերմութեան մինչև օրս անյայտ էջերից մէկը:

Եւորդ երեք տասնամեակ վեներտիկի Միխիթարեան Միաբանութեան նախաձեռնութեամբ թողարկում են հայկական յիշատակային մեդալներ նուիրուած անցեալի ու ներկայի գրականութեան, արուեստի, գիտութեան, պետական ու ռազմական գործիչներին: Արդէն թողարկուել են մի քանի տասնամեակ մեդալներ (ըստ որում որոշ մեդալներ երկու չափերով): Սակայն մեդալաշարքը ամբողջապէս անկատար է: Այս մեդալները ունեն ինքնուրույն ոճ, սակայն նրանցից շատերը ունեն համահայկական ընդլիճ հանդիսանալով հայկական մեդալային արուեստի ամբարձու հատար: Մեդալներ են նուիրուած Արտաշէս Ա, Տիգրան Բ, Կոմիտասին, Միխիթար Մեքաստացուն, Ալիշանին, Մովսէս Խորենացուն, Յովհ. Թումանեանին, Նիկիէ Չարենցին և այլն: Այս մեդալաշարքի առաջին յիշատակներից է Ն. Արզումանին նուիրուած մեդալը, թողարկուած սպիտակ մետաղից, ոսկեցած և շատ քիչ քանակութեամբ արծաթից: Մեդալի առաջին երեսին պատկերուած է Ն. Արզումանի դիմաքանդակը կիսաթէք դէպի ձախ: Պատկերի ձախ և աջ կողմերում եզրով գրուած է ՎՊԱՆԱՐԱՐ ԱՐԶՈՒՄԱՆՆԻՆ, ՆԵՐՔԵՎՈՒՄ ԳՐՈՒԾ Է ԹՊԵՂԱՐՈՒՄԱՆ ԹՈՒԼԱԿԱՆԻՑ (1909): Երկրորդ երեսին պատկերուած է ԲաժՖՈՒ դիմաքանդակը՝ կիսաթէք դէպի աջ: Ձախից ունի գրութիւն ՎՊԱՅԻՆ, աջից՝ գրողի ծննդեան ու մահուան թուականները՝ 1835-1888:

Պէտք է նշել, որ 1969 թ. լետով Ն. Արզումանին նուիրուած այդ մեդալը ունեցել է մի քանի թողարկումներ, քանի որ այն գրողազուում է վաճառքի համար: Բացի այդ, Ն. Արզումանի մեդալների երկրորդ երեսները փոխարինւում են այլ կոմպոզիցիոն և դիմաքանդակների տարբերակներով²:

Ն. Արզումանը ներկայացուած է համեմատաբար բարձր ռելիեֆով և, ընդամենը չափերին (դիմաքանդակը քաղցրեցում է մեղալի դաշտը ամբողջութեամբ) այն տպավորել է և հեռու լուսանկարչային նմանութիւնից: Ն. Արզումանի դիմապատկերը, որի հիմքում ընկած է մեծ Լուսաւորչի հանրայայտ և ընդունելի պատկերներից մէկը, մեղալի վրայ ստացել է ինքնուրույն ստեղծագործութեան արտայայտութիւն: Դիմապատկերը հմայիչ մարդու, մեծ մտածողի հաւաքական կերպար է, որի արտաքին անհոգութեան տակ զգացում է ներքին լարուածութիւն ու անհանգստութիւն:

1984 թ. նշուեց խաչատուր Արզումանի ծննդեան 175-ամեակը, որի առթիւ թողարկուեց մեդալ Երևանում: Առաջին երեսին պատկերուած է Ն. Արզումանի դիմաքանդակը մինչև կուրծքը կիսաթէք դէպի ձախ: Երկրորդ երեսին ունի գրութիւն (հայերէն և ռուսերէն)՝ ՇԻՐՎԱՆՊԱՆՔԻՆ ԱՐԶՈՒՄԱՆ, ՄԵԴԱԿԱՆ, ԵՐԵՎԱՆ, 1984 թ.: Մեդալի դաշտի աջ կողմում շրջանակի մէջ՝ 175: Այն բրոնզից է, տրամագիծը՝ 60 մմ, հեղինակը՝ Ռոբեր Զուլակեան: (Նկար թիւ 2)

² Ալեքանդր Շիրվանզադէ, Մկնիւրի ժողովածու (Երևան, 1961), հատոր 8, էջ 285-286:

³ Ծանոթ. Նախարարութեան՝ խմբագրի հաւաքածու կը պարունակէ նոյն մեդալաշարէն սպիտակ մետաղի Ն. Արզումանի մեդալ մը, որու ետին պատկերուած է վերջնականութեամբ կառնիչ և ճիւղերէն կազմուած պսակին մինչև արձանագրուած է ՎՊ չափաւան նախ նմ պիւրմէն:

Ն. Աբովեանին դիմաքանդակը զբաղեցնում է մեդալյի դաշտի ամբողջ տարածութիւնը Առանց ընկնելու փոքր մանրամասների մէջ նա գծալին խօսուև, բայց սեղմ միջոցներով տուև է Ն. Աբովեանի նկարագիրը: Ճատկապէս խօսուև են նրա աչքերը, որոնք բացայայտուև են մեծ Լուսաւորի ներքնաշխարհը մի անձնաւորութեան, որն ազնիւ է եղև իր գործունէութեամբ և որպէս նուիրեալ մարտնչև իր գաղափարների համար:

Ռ. Զուլեանը արդի սովետական մեդալագործների փոքրաթիւ համաստեղութեան աչքի ընկնող ներկայացուցիչներից է: Նրա մեդալային ստեղծագործութիւններին, որոնք ի դէպ դիմաքանդակներ են, բնորոշ են պատկերի և գրութիւնների օգտագործման համարութիւնը: Ռ. Զուլեանին մեդալների կոմպոզիցիոն պատկերների հիմնական ծանրութիւնը ընկնուև է դիմապատկերի վրայ, սակայն երկրորդ երեսների գրութիւնների (իբրև կանոն կարծ, բայց թողարկման առիթը նպատակաւաց բացայայտող) ինքնատիպ գրեւածև գրեթէ կոմպոզիցիոն լուծումի հասնող կատարելութեան, ստեղծում են երկկողմանի մի ամբողջութիւն: Ի դէպ, նրա մեդալները հիմնականում յօբեւանական են: Վերլիշենք նրանցից մի քանիսը նուիրուև ակադեմիկոսներ Լեոն և Յովսէփ Օրբելիներին, Դաւիթ Անյաղթին, Վահան Տէրեանին և այլն, որոնք չնայած ընդհանուր կոմպոզիցիոն լուծումների ընդհանրութեան ինքնուրույն ստեղծագործութիւններ են, հեռու լինելով մեդալաչար կողուևլուց:

1987 թ. Ն. Աբովեանի պատկերով մեդալ ստեղծուց Տարու (Խատնական ՍՍՀ) քաղաքում Ստանիսլաւ Նեշվոլոդովի անվանական նախաձեռնութեամբ Մեդալը նուիրուև է Ֆ. Պարրոտի և Ն. Աբովեանի Արարատ բարձրանալու յիշատակին:

Մեդալի առաջին երեսին պատկերուև են Ֆրիդրիխ Պարրոտի և Ն. Աբովեանի դիմաքանդակները միմյև կողմեր: Դաշտի ապտ տարածութիւններում ունի գրութիւն Կատոնեռն և Հայերէն՝ «Ֆ. ՊԱՐՐՈՏԻ ՈՒ Ն. ԱԲՈՎԵԱՆԻ ԱՐԱՐԱՏ ԲԱՐԶՈՐԱՆԱԼՈՒ ՆԻՇԱՆԱԿԻՆ, 1829 թ. ՀՈՎՀԱՆԵՍ ԱՅՎԱԶԵԱՆ ԵՎ ՄՈՒՐԱՎԻ ՊՈՂՈՍԵԱՆ»: Մեդալի կենտրոնական մասում Ֆ. Պարրոտի աջ ուսի մօտ նկարչի անունն սկզբնատուերն են՝ «Շ. Հ. Ստանիսլաւ Նեշվոլոդովի» երկրորդ երեսին պատկերուև է Արարատը, որի տակ սեղանի վրայ դիտու կուլայ, չիշ, երկու դաւաթ, դանակ, պատասաքաղ և գլուր: Մեդալն ձախ կողմում պատկերուև են Մուրադի և Յովսէփեանի դիմաքանդակները ողջ հասակով, իսկ աջից՝ Մատվէյի և Ալէքսէյի պատկերները 19-րդ դ. ուսական զինուորների համազգեստով: Բոլոր դիմաքանդակների մօտ գրուև են նրանց անունները կատինատաւ:

Մեդալը ձուլուև է բրոնզին (մի քանի օրինակ), ձուևակ, չափերը՝ լայնութիւնը 113 մմ, բարձրութիւնը 93 մմ (Նկար թիւ. 3)

Յիշատակութեան օրժանի իրողութիւն է, որ այս մեդալը առաջինն է նուիրուև Ֆ. Պարրոտին Արարատի դազաթը բարձրանալու առիթով: Վերլիշենք, որ յիշալ արաւախմբի կազմակերպման նախաձեռնողը, ղեկավարը և գործունեայ մասնակիցը Ֆ. Պարրոտն էր, իսկ Ն. Աբովեանը ողջ խմբի հոգին և արաւախմբի ու տղի բնակչութեան հետ կապ ստեղծող մի պայծառ անձնաւորութիւն:

Մենք հեռու ենք այն մտքից նսմացնելու թեկուզ և հոգևորականի ցածր աստիճան ունեցող (որն այն Ժամանակուայ առումով արդէն սխրանք էր) Ն. Աբովեանի դերը Արարատ բարձրանալու գործում, այնուամենայնիւ, զիտական (և ոչ միայն գիտական) գրականութեան մէջ յշտապէս գերազանահատուև էր նրա դերը, ցաւօք, վերագրելով նրան առաջնային և գործնական նշանակութիւն: Եւ ակամայ երկրորդական էր դառնում Ֆրիդրիխ Պարրոտի դերը: Փաստորեն, Ս. Նեշվոլոդովի մեդալը նաև առաջին մեդալային յուշարձանն է նուիրուև Ֆ. Պարրոտին:

Ինչպէս սասցինք, մեդալի առաջին երեսին պատկերուև են Ֆ. Պարրոտի և Ն. Աբովեանի դիմանկարները գրեթէ հանդիպահայաց: Մեդալի հեղինակը ստեղծել է երկու մեծութիւնների ինքնուրույն մանրաքանդակներ, որոնք Ս. Նեշվոլոդովը ներկայացրել է իբրև միասնութիւն Այսպիսով, մեդալագործը ինչպէս Ն. Աբովեանի, այնպէս էլ Ֆ. Պարրոտի գործունէութիւնը կոմպոզիցիոն լուծումով ընդգծուև ներկայացրել է համազոր միահաստատութեամբ: Ս. Նեշվոլոդովը այն մեդալագործներից է, որը նրբանկատ գզուև է դարաշրջանների յունչը: Ներկայացուև գործիչները իրաւի գիտութիւն ու մշակոյթի ներկայացուցիչներ են: Համեմատաբար բարձր ունիթի վրայ, բաւական խոշոր դիմագծերը մանրամասներով արտայայտուև են իւրաքանչիւր անհատական առանձնատկութիւններով: Ս. Նեշվոլոդովը կերպարների հարորդիւ է բարութիւն, որոնք Հայեցեցները և մարդկային առաքինութիւններով յաջեցուև ներքնաշխարհը հնարաւորութիւն են տալիս նրանց ներկայացնել իբրև դասական անբարձրագիւ կերտուևցներ: Նրանք ուժեղ կամք ունեցող մարդիկ են, որոնք ձգտուև են իրարգործել և հասնել իրենց նպատակին: Ս. Նեշվոլոդովը մէկ անգամ ևս ապացուցցց, որ նա դիմաքանդակների բացայայտման խորաթափանց մէկնաբան է: Երկրորդ երեսի կոմպոզիցիան ամբողջովին նուիր-

ւած է Արարատին՝ նրա փեղերին պատկերուած է սեղան, որի վրայ գինու սահորներ, գաւաթ, դանակ, պատարաքաղ և դղար Սեղանի ձախ և աջ կողմում պատկերուած են այն շորս անձնաւորութիւնները, որոնք նոյնպէս 1820 թ. Սեպտեմբերի 27-ին բարձրացել են Արարատի գագաթը՝ դրանք են Ակոռի գիւղի բնակիչներ Մուրադ Պօղոսեանը և Յովհաննէս Այվազեանը, 41-րդ եզերեան զնդի շարքային զինուորներ Ալէքսէյ Զորովիկինը և Մատլէյ Զալախովը՝ Մեղակազմից ռուսական զինուորի և 18-րդ դ. առաջին կէսի տարազները, սակայն նրանք ներկայացուած են ոչ միայն շրջանակաւ, այլ սխեմատիկ Ընդհանուր կոմպոզիցիան բարեկամութեան, մտերմութեան մթնոլորտով յագեցուած փորձածաւալ յուշարձան է։

Մասնաւոր Նեղիղովով մեղալային արուեստով զբաղւում է 1973 թուականից, մասնակցել է բազմաթիւ ցուցանիշներին, ներկայացնելով հիմնականում դիմաքանդակային մեղալներ վերը քննարկուող մեղալով նա հիմնովին մերձեցաւ հայկական մեղալային արուեստին, մատահոյեցնելով, որ նա առաջիկայում ևս կը ստեղծի նոր մեղալներ նուիրուած հայերին, Հայաստանին։

60-ական թուականների սկզբներից սկսած Սովետական Հայաստանում հիմնուեցին մրցանակներ, որոնք ուղեկցւում են նաև մեղալներով։ Նրանցից առաջինը Թ. Թորմանեանին անուան մրցանակն էր (1962 թ.)։

ՀՍՍՀ Մինիստրների Սովետի 1964 թ. Փետրուարի 28-ի որոշմամբ սահմանուեց Խ. Արովեանին անուան մեղալ, որով պարգևատրւում է ՀՍՍՀ Լուսաւորութեան Մինիստրութիւնը բազմալատակ ուսուցիչներին և մանկավարժական գիտութեան մաստակաւաւ գործիչներին։

Մեղալի առաջին երեսին պատկերուած է Խ. Արովեանի դիմաքանդակը, կիսաթէջ դէպի ձախ, կրծքին սեղմած նախաշավիղի գիրքը։ Հեռւում Արարատն է։ Ներքին մասում եզրով ունի գրուեցնելու «Նախաւոր Արովեան» և դափնու ճիւղ։ Երկրորդ երեսին պատկի մէջտեղում գրուեցնելու «ՀՍՍՀ Դպրոցի և մանկավարժական գիտութեան մաստակաւաւ գործիչներին համար»։

Մեղալի հեղինակն է նկարիչ Աշոտ Մամաջանեանը

Վերջին տարիներին ուժեղացել է հետաքրքրութիւնը հայկական մեղալների նկատմամբ։ Տարբեր երկրների, յատկապէս դրամագիտական պարբերականներում ժամանակ առ ժամանակ տպագրւում են յօդուածներ հայկական մեղալների վերաբերմամբ Յաւոք տպագրւում են նաև անհատական հաղորդումներ, որոնցից մէկի մասին կ'ուզէինք խօսել, քանի որ կապուած է Արարատի հետ։ 1984 թ. «Flaschenpost» (թիւ 66, էջ 8) ամսագրում տպագրուել է Վալէր Միլլեր-Ռէյխաուրի հաղորդումը նուիրուած 1826-1828 թթ. ռուս-պարսկական պատերազմում Ռուսական կայսրութեան յաղթանակի առթիւ թողարկուած մեղալի վերաբերմամբ Մեղալի առաջին երեսին պատկերուած է Արարատը Նոյան տապանով զազաթիւն երկրորդ երեսին նոյնպէս փորագրուած է Արարատը Ռուսական կայսրութեան դրօշով զազաթիւն Ներքին մասում պատկերուած է Երեւանի համալսարանի Սեղալը թողարկուել է ոսկուց, արծաթից և բրոնզից 1828 թ. Յիշեալ մեղալը մի քանի անգամ հրատարակուել է սկսած 1840 թ.։ Վերջին անգամ 1975 թ. մեր կողմից, որը Վ. Միլլեր-Ռէյխաուրն չի կարգացրել նա ռուսամասերի մեղալի կոմպոզիցիոն պատկերները եկել է սխալ եզրակացութեան, որ այն թողարկուել է 1829 թ.։ Ֆ. Պարոտի Արարատ բարձրանալու առթիւ։

Այս մեղալը հետաքրքրական է ոչ միայն որպէս մեղալային արուեստի յուշարձան, այլ նաև թողարկման առթիւով։ Ինչպէս յայտնի է, 1826-1828 թթ. ռուս-պարսկական պատերազմի հետեւեալով Արեւելեան Հայաստանը մտաւ Ռուսական կայսրութեան կազմի մէջ։ Այս մեղալը առաջինն է, որի վրայ պատկերուել է Արարատը և Երեւանի համայնապատկերը։ Այնպէս որ, այն ոչ միայն կապ չունի Արարատ բարձրանալու հետ և Ֆ. Պարոտի, հետեւաբար և Խ. Արովեանի հետ նոյնպէս։

Խ. Արովեանի նուիրուած մեղալները ինչպէս տեսանք քանակով շատ չեն։ Յուշում ենք, որ հայ մեղալագործները առաջիկայում ևս կը ստեղծեն մեղալային արուեստի յուշարձաններ, որոնք կ'ընդգրկեն մեծ Լուսաւորչի գործունէութիւնը մտերմութիւն և կը դառնան որպէս մեծ արուեստի ստեղծագործութիւններ։

Հենրի Վ. ՍԱՐԳՍՅԱՆ
Երևան

⁴ Հենրի Սարգսյան, «The Armenian Theme in Russian Medallion Arts», Աշխատություններ Հայաստանի Պատմության Պետական Թանգարանի, հատոր VI (1975), էջ 114-142 (ռուսերէնով)։

METALLIC MONUMENTS HONORING KHACHATUR ABOVIAN

[Summary]

The first plaque dedicated to Kh. Abovian* was created by Andreas Ter-Maroukian, in 1912, in France. On the obverse the writer is pictured facing slightly to the left. At the bottom is an inscription "Խ. ԱՅՈՎԵԱՆ" (Kh. Abovian) and at the top "1803-1848." To the right side of the portrait is written "A. Ter-Maroukian, 1912, Paris." The plaque is made of bronze with dimensions of 56x80 mm. The image of Abovian is executed in high relief; the sculptor has created a sensitive portrait of the great thinker at a young age.

Ter-Maroukian is also the author of a miniature sculpture which can be named "Kh. Abovian instructor-pedagogue." The sculpture depicts a young Abovian, in front of villagers, seated on a box, with an open book in his hands. In the middle are a water urn and two plates. The top of this miniature sculpture is semicircular; at the bottom is an inscription in Armenian "To Mr. Shirvanzade from the author, Dpkhiz, 22.5.1911. On his 30th anniversary year." The miniature sculpture is made of gypsum; the length is 29 cm, and the height is 28 cm. (Fig. 1)

During the past three decades many Armenian medals have been issued by the Mekhitarist Congregation in Venice. One of the early medals is dedicated to Kh. Abovian. The medal is issued in white alloy, gold plated, and a small quantity in silver. On the obverse the words "ԽԱՇԱՏՈՐ ԱՅՈՎԻԱՆ" (Khachatur Abovian) are engraved; below is the date of issue "1969." The reverse portrays another Armenian writer "ԲԱՔԻԶ" (Raffi). Later issues of Abovian's medal display other reverse designs.

In 1984, in observance of 175th year of birth of Kh. Abovian, a medal was issued in Yerevan. Abovian's portrait is on the obverse, facing slightly to the left. The reverse has an inscription in Armenian and Russian "KHACHATUR ABOVIAN, EREVAN, 1984." "175" is inscribed at the right side within a circle. The author is R. Julakian. The medal is made of bronze, with a diameter of 60 mm. (Fig. 2)

In the Estonian city of Tartu, in 1987, Stanislav Nechvolodov, created a medal immortalizing the ascent of Mt. Ararat by Friedrich Parrot and Khachatur Abovian. On the obverse are the portraits of F. Parrot and Kh. Abovian. In the open field is an inscription in Estonian and Armenian, "To the memory of F. Parrot and Kh. Abovian climbing Ararat, 1829, Hovhannes Ayyazian and Murad Poghosian." On F. Parrot's right shoulder are the initials of the artist, CH (Stanislav Nechvolodov). The reverse depicts Mt. Ararat, on a table a bottle-gourd of wine, a bottle, two cups, a knife, a fork, and a spoon. Four persons are pictured, to the left and right side of the table, who also climbed Mt. Ararat on 27 September 1829: Murad Boghosian and Hovhannes Ayyazian, residents of Akori village, and Alexei Zdorovenko and Madvei Chalbanov, Russian soldiers dressed in 19th century military uniforms. The display is not only presented with photographic accuracy, but also in schematic details. The medal is a miniature monument whose composition conveys friendship and comradeship. The medal is cast in bronze, one copy, oval shaped, 113 mm length, 93 mm height. (Fig. 3)

In 1964, the council of Ministers of the Armenian SSR authorized an award medal with the picture of Kh. Abovian. The obverse displays the portrait of Abovian, facing slightly to the left, and his book, "Nakhshavigh" (Forerunner), pressed to his chest. The inscription on the edge reads "ԽԱՇԱՏՈՐ ԱՅՈՎԻԱՆ" (Khachatur Abovian) with a laurel wreath. On the reverse, an Armenian inscription appears within a laurel wreath, "For services rendered to the ASSR School and pedagogical science."

HENRY V. SARKISSIAN

* Kh. Abovian (1803-1848): Armenian writer, pedagogue, illuminator, and the founder of modern Eastern Armenian literature and intelligentsia. He disappeared in mysterious circumstances. Dr. Friedrich Parrot, in his book, *Journey to Ararat*, New York: 1846, pp. 125-126, provides a description of Kh. Abovian's. Parrot speaks glowingly of Abovian's character, his thirst for knowledge, and his skill with languages.

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC LITERATURE

(Continued from page 70)

Chicago are described: Artaxias I silver medal (1983), Karekin II silver medal (1990), Artaxias I aluminum game tokens (1980) issued in various denominations (Fifty cents, One dollar, Five dollars). Legends and metrological data are published. YTN

Պատմական ուրուագիծ մը տրուած է Շիկագոյ քաղաքի հայ համայնքի մասին և նկարագրուած են Ամենայն Սրբոց Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցիի հետեւեալ մեդալներն ու ալիւմինումէ տոմսակները՝ Արտաշէս Ա-ի արծաթ մեդալ (1983), Գարեգին Բ-ի արծաթ մեդալ (1990), Արտաշէս Ա-ի ալիւմինումէ խաղաղալորի տոմսակներ (1980) Թողարկուած՝ զանազան արժէքիչերով (Յիսուս սէնթ, Մէկ դոլլար, Հինգ դոլլար) Խորազրուծիւններն ու չափադիտական տուեալները հրատարակուած են ԵԹՆ

19 SARYAN, Levon A. Achieving Independence: A Lesson from Armenian History, by Levon A. Saryan. *Armenian Weekly*, Vol. LXII (4 July 1992), No. 27 (29558), pp. 2, 16.

Saryan reviews the history of King Levon I of Cilician Armenia (1187-1219), analyzes the problems facing King Levon and how he took concrete means to improve economic conditions, noting that King Levon issued coins with high silver fineness which were widely accepted as a means of exchange for domestic and international transactions; then the author compares Armenia's present needs under the leadership of President Levon Ter Petrosian. YTN

Սարեան կը քննէ Գիւրիկիոյ Լևոն Ա Թագաւորին (1187-1219) պատմութիւնը, կը վերուծէ Լևոն Թագաւորին խնդիրները և ինչպէս ինք դիմագրաւեց զանոնք բարելաւելու համար տնտեսական դրութիւնը, ցոյց տալով թէ Լևոն Թագաւորը թողարկեց բարձր որակով արծաթեայ դրամ, զոր ընդունուեցաւ իբրև փոխառութեան միջոց ներքին ու միջազգային շուկայի վրայ: ապա հեղինակը կը կը բաղդատէ Հայաստանի ներկայ կացութիւնը Նախագահ Լևոն Տէր Պետրոսեանի ղեկավարութեան ներքեւ ԵԹՆ

20 SARYAN, Levon A. A Rare Armenian Takvorin of Levon IV (1320-1342), by L. A. Saryan. *PCNS Journal* (April 1992), No. 31, pp. 16-19, illus.

Saryan describes the discovery of a unique takvorin of King Levon IV (1320-1342) where the lion walks left instead of right, found in a parcel of ancient and medieval Armenian coins. He discusses the significance of this coin and speculates on the direction of the lion on medieval Armenian coins. For this article, Saryan was awarded the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society "Third Place-1992" literary award. YTN

Սարեան կը նկարագրէ Լևոն Դ Թագաւորին (1320-1342) բացառիկ Թագաւորին մը յայտնաբերումը, ուր առիւծը կը քայլէ դէպի ձախ փոխան ալի, գտնուած խումբ մը հին ու միջնադարեան հայկական դրամներու մէջ: ինք կը քննարկէ այս դրամին նշանակութիւնը և կը խորհրդածէ հայկական միջնադարեան դրամին վրայի առիւծին ուղղութեան մասին: Այս յօդուածին համար, Սարեան պարգևատրուած է Pacific Coast Numismatic Society-ի «Երրորդ աստիճան-1992» գրական մրցանակը ԵԹՆ

21 STERNBERG, Frank. Auktion XXV; Antike Münzen: Griechen — Römer, Byzantinische Münzen und Bleisiegel, Renaissance Medaillen, Geschnittene Steine und Schmuck der Antike, Antike Bronzen — Figuren und Objekte Gold- und Silbermünzen 14. - 20 jh. Numismatische Literatur: Antike bis Neuzeit. Zurich: Frank Sternberg AG, 25 and 26 November 1991, pp. 71-72, pls. XXVI-XXVII, Nos. 504, 505, and 507. In German.

Byzantine lead seals are catalogued. Three of them are given to the following Armenians: Gagik of Ani (Bagratid King Gagik II), issued in Cappadocia, ca. 1068-1073 (34/30 mm); Philartos Vrachamios, ca. 1081-1086 (28/26 mm); Georgios (25/20 mm). Greek legends are published. YTN

Յուցակագրուած են բիւզանդական արճիճէ կնիքներ Ստեփմէ երեքը տրուած են հետեւեալ հայերուն՝ Գագիկ Անցիի (Բագրատունի Գագիկ Բ Թագաւոր), կարուած Կապաթովկիոյ մէջ, շուրջ 1068-1073 (34/30 մմ). Փիլարտոս Վրաքամիոսի, շուրջ 1081-1086 (27/26 մմ). Գէորգ (25/20 մմ): ԵԹՆ



Նկար 1. Մանրագրողակ՝ ինչ ատուր Արովեանը դաստիարակ-մանկավարժ (փղբրացում)



Նկար 2. ինչ ատուր Արովեանի ծննդեան 175-ամեակի մեդալ



Նկար 3. Մեդալ նուիրում Ֆ. Պարրոտի և ի. Արովեանի Ազադատ բարձրանալու յիշատակին (փղբրացում)

Հենրի Վ. Սաղաեան, Մեդալային յուշարձաններ ինչ ատուր Արովեանի դիմագատկերով

MORE TAKVORINS OF LEVON III

By Levon A Saryan, Ph.D.

Veteran numismatic scholar Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian was the first to catalogue the silver takvorins of Levon III of Cilician Armenia (1301-1307) in his comprehensive survey of the coinage and associated history of the barons and kings of Cilician Armenia.¹ Bedoukian's 1962 corpus lists 210 pieces of several varieties and forms the basis for subsequent classifications.


Over the past three years, several hundred takvorins of Levon III have appeared on the numismatic market. Information reaching this writer indicates that these may have originated from a single large hoard of 700 coins recently discovered in the Middle East. The coins were apparently cleaned and divided into smaller parcels for easier dispersal. Three separate parcels, numbering in all over 300 coins, were recently classified and published in two articles appearing in *Armenian Numismatic Journal*.²

This writer recently acquired 38 additional Levon III takvorins; most or all probably derive from the same "hoard." These coins fall into two separate groups: 28 cleaned takvorins (remainders of a dealer's parcel of 61 pieces) that share several characteristics of the "hoard" coins (Table I, numbers 361-388); and 10 miscellaneous pieces gathered from various dealers over the past three years (numbers 391-400). Several of the latter appear to have been selected on the basis of superb preservation and/or unusual style.

These new pieces are classified in Table I following the method used by Saryan and Hajinian.³ Bedoukian corpus numbers are assigned to each coin, and obverse/reverse designs are correlated to diagrams made by Nercessian. Some coins could be classified only by careful comparison to better preserved examples. Die numbers correlate to those used by Saryan and Hajinian with the addition of new numbers as required. At the end of the table, some minor corrections and additions to Saryan and Hajinian's previous catalogue are noted.

From a metrological and stylistic standpoint, these coins are very similar to those reported previously. The mean weight of the 38 pieces described here is 2.47 grams with 5.79% coefficient of variation. The distribution of types is heavily weighted toward obverses 1 and 3 and reverse A.


Table I. Catalogue of Levon III takvorins

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
ՀԵՒՈՐ թԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
361	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ Է	1c	B2	2.37	01	22
362	1736a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	1a	A3	2.66	09	16
ՀԵՒՈՐ թԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
363	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.57	15	12
364	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A2	2.39	15	12
365	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.54	17	34
366	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3a	A2	2.42	17	36
367	1742	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻՍ	3b	A3	2.48	15	16
368	1743	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՍԻ	3a	A12	2.39	21	98
369	1744V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A2	2.40	17	18
370	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.15	21	60
371	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.48	21	60
372	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.51	21	60

¹ Paul Z. Bedoukian, *Coinage of Cilician Armenia* (New York, 1962), pp. 336-347.

² Y. T. Nercessian, "A Hoard of Levon III Takvorins," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, series I, Vol. XVIII (March 1992), No. 1, pp. 3-14; L. A. Saryan and C. A. Hajinian, "Another Hoard of Levon III Takvorins," *Armenian Numismatic Journal*, series I, Vol. XVIII (March 1992), No. 1, pp. 15-24.

³ L. A. Saryan and C. A. Hajinian, *op. cit.*

No	Bed No	Reverse Legend		†	Wt	Obv/Rev Die	PI
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ (continued)							
373	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.52	21	60
374	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.54	21	60
375	1745	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	3a	A8	2.61	21	60
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
376	1758	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1b	A7	2.57	29	72
377	1759a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ Մ	1b	A2	2.60	29	76
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
378	1760a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1b	A2	2.53	31	34
379	1760aV	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1b	A7	2.40	31	122
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ							
380	1777a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՄԻՍ	1c	A7	2.43	67	94
381	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A2	2.68	47	40
382	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1b	A12	2.58	45	98
383	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Մ	1c	A7	2.39	47	48
384	1778a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Մ	1c	A9	2.56	47	50
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՐ							
385	1793	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1c	A7	2.49	55	122
386	1793a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻ	1c	A7	2.37	55	74
387	1795	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	1c	A7	2.56	55	54
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ							
388	1798	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ ՄԻ	3a	A7	2.57	61	74
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
391	1734	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ Է	1c	A6	2.45	01	24
392	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	2c	A2	2.47	19	124
393	1741	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	3b	A2	2.35	15	126
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ							
394	1745V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ Ս	2b	A8	2.42	27	60
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՑ							
395	1758	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1b	A7	2.45	29	72
396	1758	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1b	A7	2.53	29	72
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ (Obverse Ն = Ն and b ligature)							
397	1776V	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4c	B6	1.90	43	128
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՈՐ							
398	1778	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	1c	A7	2.47	47	130
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅՐ							
399	1796a	+ԾԻՆԵԱԼ ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ	4c	B3	2.72	59	132
ՀԵՒՈՆ ԹԱԳԱՒՈՐ ՀԱՅ							
400	1803a	+ԾԻՆԱԼ Ի ԳԱՂԱԳՆ	5bV	C1V	2.52	69	134

CORRECTIONS and ADDITIONS to Saryan and Hajinian, Table I

217S reverse is A6

220H type is 1741, reverse inscription reads ԾԻՆԵԱԼ Ի ՔԱՂԱՔՆ ՄԻՍ

280S, 281S, 282S, ՔԱՂԱՔՆ

297S 1777a ԳԱՂԱԳՆ

306S reverse is ՄԻ, type is 1778

reverse die 30 appears to be a later state of die 32

reverse die 54 exists in clashed and unclashed die state

early and later states of die 16 are apparent

ARMENIAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
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PUBLICATION TITLE	PRICE	Member PRICE
<i>Armenian Coin Hoards</i> , by Paul Z. Bedoukian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No. 5, 1987, 64 pp., 6 pls., inclusive, card covers.....	\$008.00	\$006.50
<i>Armenian Numismatic Bibliography and Literature</i> , by Y. T. Nercessian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No. 3, 1984, 729 pp., casebound.....	50.00	39.50
<i>Attribution and Dating of Armenian Bilingual Trams</i> , by Y. T. Nercessian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No. 2, 1983, 36 pp., 12 pls., card covers.....	06.75	05.25
<i>Bank Notes of Armenia</i> , by Y. T. Nercessian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No. 6, 1988, 224 pp., 192 pls., casebound.....	30.00	24.50
<i>Coinage of the Armenian Kingdoms of Sophene and Commagene</i> , by Paul Z. Bedoukian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No. 4, 1985, 37 pp., 2 pls., card covers.....	06.00	04.80
<i>Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia</i> , by Paul Z. Bedoukian. London: Royal Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No 10, 1978, 82 pp., 6 pls., casebound.....	25.00	21.00
<i>Coinage of Cilician Armenia</i> , by Paul Z. Bedoukian. Revised edition, Danbury, Connecticut: 1979, xxxie and 494 pp., 12 pls., casebound.....	35.00	29.50
<i>A Hoard of Copper Coins of Tigranes the Great and a Hoard of Artaxiad Coins</i> , by Paul Z. Bedoukian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No. 7, 1991, 30 pp., 2 pls., card covers.....	05.50	04.50
<i>Selected Numismatic Studies</i> of Paul Z. Bedoukian. Los Angeles: Armenian Numismatic Society, <i>Special Publication</i> , No 1, 1981, 570 pp., 72 pls. inclusive, casebound.....	35.00	29.50
<i>Essays on Armenian Numismatics in Memory of Father Clement Sibilian on the Centennial of His Death</i> (the Sibilian volume), <i>Armenian Numismatic Journal</i> , Series I, Vol. IV (1978, published in 1980), 167 pp., XXI pls., card covers.....	30.00	24.50
<i>Studies in Honor of Dr. Paul Z. Bedoukian</i> (the Bedoukian volume), <i>Armenian Numismatic Journal</i> , Series I, Vol. XV (1989), 192 pp., illus., card covers.....	30.00	24.50
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Oct. Dec. 1992

Y. T. NERCESSIAN

Specialist in Armenian Coins and Books
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1992

Bulletin No. 16

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Grading standards and abbreviations

UNC=Uncirculated (b/n), FDC=Fleur de Coin, EF=Extra Fine, VF=Very Fine, F=Fine, VG=Very Good, G=Good, P=Poor (b/n), f=Fair; r.=Right, l.=Left, +=Slightly better, -=Nearly as good, AV = Gold, AR = Silver, AE=Bronze or base metal. AE29=Bronze or base metal coin with 29 mm diameter, /=Separates the obverse from the reverse.

Standard works of reference used

Bed=Bedoukian, P. Z. *Coinage of Cilician Armenia*, revised edition, 1979; BA=Bedoukian, P. Z. *Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia*, 1978; RA=Bedoukian, P. Z. *Roman Coins and Medallions Relating to Armenia*; BNA=Nercessian, Y. T. *Bank Notes of Armenia*; P=Pick, A. *Catalogue of World Paper Money*.

Some general notes to Armenian coin and antiquity collectors

- Late Cilician Armenian coins have a very shallow depth and are struck with mediocre workmanship. In cases searching for coins like VF+ or EF is rather frustrating not to say impossible.
- Upon request, aluminum foil rubbings of coins will be submitted, please send a self addressed stamped envelope.

Services available

- Attribution
- Cataloguing
- Authentication
- Coin photography (prints or slides)
- Assist in location of coin or currency
- Assist in formation of collections
- Search service
- Counsel Armenian coin collectors, museums, foundations, dealers, and corporations
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Note: For those of you who are new to our establishment, we would like to add that there is a 10% discount to the members of Armenian Numismatic Society on the purchase of numismatic books and archaeology and art books. We encourage you to join the Armenian Numismatic Society and take advantage of this discount program. If you are subscriber, you can convert subscription to membership very easily. If you plan to visit Southern California or Metropolitan Los Angeles, we would like to meet you. Contact us: 310/695-0380.

COINS

Tigranes II The Great (95-55 B.C.)

001. Silver, tetradrachm. Obv.: Bust of Tigranes draped r., clean shaven and wearing ornate five-pointed tiara, edged with pearls. A broad diadem knotted at the back encircles the head and falls downward. Divided drapes cover the ear and the neck. The tiara is adorned with an eight-pointed star flanked by two eagles back to back and with heads turned to each other. Floral design to left and right of eagles. Fillet border. Rev.: Tyche of Antioch, draped and wearing a turreted crown, seated r. on rock, holding a palm branch in her r. hand; at her feet the upper portion of a youthful male nude figure of the river-god Orontes swimming r. Whole within laurel wreath. To r. downward ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ; l. downward ΤΙΓΓΑΝΟΥ. Field marks. Silver, tetradrachm, type Bed 20, -VF..... 1400.00 002. --, Type Bed 21, VF/VF+..... 1650.00
003. --, Type Bed 19/17, VF..... 1100.00 004. --, Type Bed 19, 5% off center, VF..... 0950.00
005. --, Type Bed 19, double strike on king's nose (reverse is very attractive), F+/VF..... 0475.00
006. --, Type Bed 19, VF..... 1050.00 007. --, Type Bed 20, VF..... 1025.00
008. Silver, drachm. Similar to the above, but "King of kings" inscription. Bed type 64, VF..... 1850.00

Tigranes II copper coins

009. Rev.: Tyche, type BA91, F..... 100.00 010. --Rev.: Tyche, type BA92, c/s..... F 100.00
011. Rev.: Tyche, type BA94, F..... 100.00 012. --Rev.: Tyche, type BA94, F+ 125.00
013. Rev.: Nike, type BA 114, F+..... 125.00 014. --Rev.: Nike, type BA 119, F+ 100.00
015. Rev.: Nike, type BA 120, VG+/F..... 060.00 016. --Rev.: Nike, type BA 120, -VG/-F 040.00
017. Rev.: Vahagn, type BA 99, -VF..... 150.00 018. --Rev.: Vahagn, type BA 99V, F+ 150.00
019. Rev.: Vahagn, type BA 100, F/-VF..... 125.00 020. --Rev.: Vahagn, type BA 101, F/-VF..... 125.00
021. Rev.: palm-branch, type BA 121, VG+ 060.00 022. --Rev.: palm-branch, type BA 121, -F..... 60.00
023. Rev.: cornucopiae, type BA 106V, -V 050.00

Tigranes IV (8-5 B.C.)

024. Copper coin. Obv.: Head of Tigranes r. Rev.: elephant left. BA 150, AE17 mm, 4.19 gm..... F 175.00

COMMAGENE

025. Antiochus IV (A.D. 38-82). Obv.: head of Antiochus right. Rev.: scorpion within laurel wreath. Type BMC p. 106. No. 7, tetrachalcon, AE 26 mm, 16.38 gm VF..... 150.00
026. --, similar to the above, AE 25 mm, 13.38 gm VF..... 150.00
027. --, Obv. similar to the above, rev.: scorpion to right AE 22 mm, 6.41 gm VF..... 145.00
028. Queen Iotape, wife of Antiochus IV (A.D. 38-82). Obv.: head of Iotape right. Rev.: scorpion within laurel wreath. Type BMC p. 109. No. 1, tetrachalcon, AE 28 mm, 12.11 gm, F+/F..... 125.00

CILICIAN ARMENIAN COINS

Levon I (1198-1219)

029. Silver, half double tram. Obv.: king seated on throne ornamented with lions, wearing crown and royal mantle on his shoulders. He holds a cross with his right hand and fleur-de-lis in his left hand. His feet rest on a foot stool. Rev.: lion crowned, turned left, holding a cross with two bars. Bed 44, AR 23, 2.58 gm, -VF... 090.00
030. --, Bed 44, AR 22, 2.73 gm, -VF..... 080.00 031. --, Bed 49, AR21, 2.63 gm, VF..... 090.00
032. --, Bed 62V, AR 21, 2.6 gm, VF..... 080.00
033. Silver coronation tram. Obv.: Christ or the Virgin standing left and facing. King kneeling to left with a crown on his head. A dove descending from above. Rev.: long cross between two lions rampant regardant. Armenian inscription on both sides. Bed 102, AR21 mm, 2.96 gm, -VF..... 035.00
034. Silver, regular tram. Obv. similar to the above. Rev.: long cross between two lions rampant regardant. Armenian inscription on both sides. Bed 129, AR22, 2.84 gm, VF..... 025.00
035. --, Bed 147, AR23, 2.96 gm, VF+..... 035.00 037. --, Bed 222, AR21, 2.79 gm, VF+..... 030.00
037. --, Bed 225, AR22, 2.82 gm, VF+..... 035.00 038. --, Bed 223, AR22, 2.85 gm, VF+..... 030.00
039. --, Bed 225, AR23, 2.91 gm, -VF..... 020.00 040. --, Bed 236, AR21, 2.95 gm, VF+..... 030.00
041. --, Bed 251, AR21.5, 2.81 gm, VF+..... 030.00 042. --, Bed 298, AR22, 2.95 gm, VF+..... 035.00
043. --, Bed 310, AR22, 2.94 gm, -VF..... 020.00 044. --, Bed 329, AR21, 2.87 gm, -VF..... 017.50
045. --, Bed 360, AR23, 2.97 gm, VF..... 025.00 046. --, Bed 456V, AR22, 2.93 gm, -VF/VF+ 025.00
047. --, Bed 565, AR22, 3.02 gm, VF/-VF..... 030.00 048. --, Bed 592, AR22, 2.88 gm, -VF..... 017.50

Hetoum I (1226-1270)

049. Silver, bilingual tram. Hetoum-Kaikhusrew. Obv.: king on horseback r., holding scepter with r. hand. Cross in l. field above the horse. Crescent in r. field above the horse. Circular Armenian legend. Rev.: Arabic inscription in four lines, A.H. 639, Bed 808V, AR25, 2.89 gm, VF+..... 125.00
050. --, A.H. 640, Bed 814, AR 23, 2.92 gm -VF..... 075.00

Levon II (1270-1289)

051. Silver coin, tram. Obv.: king on horseback to right, holding reins with left hand, and with right a cross with two bars extending over his right shoulder. Various field marks. Rev.: crowned lion walking left or right, with left paw raised; behind him a cross with one or two bars. Bed 1455, AR22, 2.62 gm, -VF..... 035.00
052. --, Bed 1465V, AR21, 2.62 gm, VF..... 050.00 053. --, Bed 1515, AR20.5, 2.41 gm, -VF..... 040.00
054. --, Bed 1516, AR21, 2.68 gm, F+..... 035.00 055. --, Bed 1500V, struck in Ayas, F+..... 060.00

Hetoum II (1289-1305)

056. Billon. Obv.: king's head facing. Rev.: potent cross. Bed 1577aSim, AR15, 0.60 gm, VF..... 185.00

Levon the Usurper (1363-1365)

057. Silver coin, takvorin. Obv.: king on horseback to right, holding the reins with his left hand, and with his right hand a cross extending over his shoulder. Rev.: lion walking to right and facing right. A cross with single bar behind him. Armenian inscription on both sides. Bed 2133V, AR19, 2.38 gm, F+..... 040.00
058. --, Bed 2146V, AR20, 2.24gm, F+..... 040.00 059. --, Bed 2152V, AR20, 2.29 gm, F+..... 040.00

Levon IV (1320-1342)

060. Silver coin, takvorin. Obv.: king on horseback to right, holding the reins with his left hand, and with his right hand a cross extending over his shoulder. Rev.: lion walking to right and facing right. A cross with single bar behind him. Armenian inscription on both sides. Bed 1951, AR20, 2.27 gm, -VF..... 030.00
061. --, Bed 1966, AR24, 2.38 gm, -F..... 017.50 062. --, Bed 1970, AR20, 2.37 gm, F..... 020.00

Levon V (1374-1375)

063. Billon. Obv.: king's head facing. Rev.: potent cross. Bed 2237, AR15, 0.61 gm, VF..... 250.00

Raymond Roupen of Antioch (1201-1222), grandson of Roupen II, the brother of King Levon I

064. Silver, crusader type billons, Schlumberger Plate III, No. 9, 0.77 gm, VF/VF+..... 065.00
065. --, 0.79 gm, -VF..... 040.00 066. --, 0.43 gm, F..... 027.50

COINS WHOLESALE

067. **Tigranes II (95-55 B.C.)**, 4 AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 2 coins, Vahagn standing left 1 coin, Nike advancing left 1 coin. Average grade about F or better, 4 pieces..... 200.00
068. **as above** but 10 AE with following reverses: Tyche of Antioch seated right 4 coins, Vahagn standing left 3 coins, Nike advancing left 3 coins. Average grade about F or better, 10 pieces..... 400.00
069. **as above** but 50 AE with following reverses: Tyche 19 coins, Nike 14 coins, Heracles 14 coins, palm-branch 1 coin, cornucopiae 1 coin. Average grade about F or better, range VG+ to VF. All catalogued and mounted in 2x2s. 50 coins..... 1375.00
070. **Similar to the above** but 100 AE, includes Tyche 1, Heracles (Vahagn), palm-branch, cornucopiae, and Nike. Average grade about F or better, range VG+ to VF. Some requires cleaning. 100 coins..... 2500.00
071. **Antiochus IV of Commagene IV (A.D. 38-72)**, 3 coppers, 2 scorpion and 1 Capricorn (VF), 1 his wife Iotape, scorpion 1 copper (F+/F). 4 pieces..... 495.00
072. **Levon I (1196-1219)**, four silver half double trams (-VF to VF), 4 pieces..... 250.00
073. **Levon I**, regular silver trams (F to VF), 10 pieces..... 097.50
074. **as above** but 20 trams (F to VF) 180.00
075. **as above** but 50 trams (F to VF) 412.50
076. **as above** but 100 trams (F to VF) 750.00
077. **Raymond Roupen of Antioch (1201-1222)**, silver billons (average, -F to VF), 3 pieces..... 115.00
078. **as above** (average, -F to VF), 6 pieces..... 200.00
079. **Levon II (1270-1288)**, silver trams struck in Sis (-VF), 5 pieces..... 150.00
080. **above plus** a tram struck in Ayas, 6 trams (F to VF) 200.00
081. **Levon IV (1320-1342)**, silver takvorins (average, VG+ to -F), 5 pieces..... 070.00
082. **as above** but 10 trams, silver takvorins (average, VG+ to -F), 10 pieces..... 120.00

083. as above but 15 trams, silver takvorins (average, VG+ to -F), 15 pieces.....	150.00
084. Levon the Usurper (1363-1365), silver takvorins (average, VG+ to -F), 3 pieces.....	100.00
085. Hetoum II and Levon V 2 billons, grades -VF.....	390.00
086. Hetoum-Kalkhusrew bilingual trams (A.H. 639, 640) 2 pieces (-VF, VF+).....	150.00

USSR Commemorative Coins

087. Armenian earthquake coin, 3 rubles cupro-nickel, prooflike, 1989, display case.....	015.00
088. Matenadaran of Yerevan , 5 rubles cupro-nickel, prooflike, 1990.	
a. With government mint display package.....	25.00
b. With mint plastic envelope (sealed).....	22.00
089. One thousand yr Christianity in Russia , 3 cupro-nickel 5 ruble coins, 1988, prooflike, display case	75.00

Bank Notes of Republic of Armenia (1918-1920)

090. Republic of Armenia (1919), 5 rubles, BNA III.13, Pick S657, VF.....	17.50
091. Republic of Armenia (1919), 10 rubles, BNA III.14.a, Pick S658, VF to F.....	17.50
092. Republic of Armenia (1919), 100 rubles, BNA III.19.b, Pick S663, VF.....	25.00
093. Republic of Armenia (1920), 5000 rubles, BNA III.31.b, Pick S673a, EF+.....	45.00
094. Republic of Armenia (1920), 5000 rubles, BNA III.31.c, Pick S673, EF.....	35.00
095. Republic of Armenia (1920), 250 rubles, BNA III.34.b, Pick S669a, AU.....	50.00
096. 50 ruble note. Obv.: brown allegorical dragons on the right and left. Rev.: value denomination. 125x80 mm. In Armenian, French, and Russian. Watermarked, BNA III.36, Pick S675. UNC.....	20.00
097. 100 ruble note. Obv.: Green doves appear in the upper left and the upper right. At the bottom is twin peaked Mt. Ararat. Rev.: Green eagle in the middle. Watermarked, BNA III.37, Pick S676. UNC.....	25.00
098. 250 ruble note. Obv.: purple allegorical dragons on the top. Victory flanks the bank note on the left and right. Rev.: purple colored maiden behind a spinning wheel; golden halo surrounds her hair. At the bottom are two dragons. Watermarked, BNA 38, Pick 677, UNC.....	30.00

Bank Notes of Socialist Soviet Republic of Armenia (1923)

099. 1 chervonetz. Obv.: black coat of arms of SSR of Armenia, two peacocks. Rev.: Peasant ploughing with a team of oxen. Trees, Mt. Ararat, a house all in green. Watermarked, BNA XII.10, Pick S687, AU.....	225.00
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USSR Notes, values are also printed in Armenian

100. 1 Chervonetz, 1937, black, P198, UNC.....	101. Same, F..3.00	127. Same, VG+.....	01.00
102. 3 rubles, 1961, green-violet, P223, VF.....	2.00	103. Same, F.....	01.00
104. Same, F.....	5.00	105. 20 Kopeks, 1971 or 1962.....	01.00

Bank Notes of Transcasian Provisional Government, denomination on reverse printed in Armenian

106. 5 rubles, Pick S1141, UNC.....	15.00	107. Same as , but in EF to VF grade.....	12.00
108. 100 rubles, S1145, VF+.....	20.00	109. 250 rubles, S1146, VF+	20.00

Postage stamps of Republic of Armenia (1992)

Note that all profits of these philatelic material will be given to Arm. Relief Society (as we did on Armenian earthquake stamps of USSR) so that they can use them in Armenia on their various charitable projects.

110. AT&T, international telecommunication, each stamp.....	05.50
111. One set of 3 stamps, Mt. Ararat and Armenian flag, includes 0.20, 2.00, 5.00 units.....	08.50
112. Same as above, but one full sheet, contains 20 sets of each 3 denominations.....	115.00
113. First day of cancellation (FDC), includes stamps listed above.....	10.00
114. Souvenir sheet, includes 7.00 unit stamp, not included on above FDC.....	14.00
115. One set of 4 stamps, definitive issue (flag, airport, Anahit, world postal union), includes 0.20, 2.00, 3.00, and 5.00 units.....	07.50
116. Same as above, but full 4 sheets, contains 50 sets of each 4 denominations (4 full sheets).....	29.00
117. First day of cancellation (FDC), includes 4 stamps listed above.....	09.00
118. One set of 4 stamps, olympic issue, includes 0.40, 3.00, 5.00, and 12.00 units.....	09.75
119. Same as above, but one full sheet, contains 15 sets of each 4 denominations	125.00
120. First day of cancellation (FDC), includes 4 stamps listed above.....	11.25

Postage Stamps Relating to Armenia and Armenians

121. St. Nerses Shnorhali stamps issued by Vatican, set of three.....	06.50
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122.	--, St. Nerses Shnorhali as above but corner block of four for three sets.....	32.50
123.	Stamps of Soviet Armenia: M. Sarian, Erebouri, Lenin Square, Etchmiadzin, D. Anghaght, A. Khachadourian, Matenadaran, William Saroyan.....	10.00
124.	Corner block of four, Soviet Armenia stamps of M. Sarian, Erebouri, Lenin Square, Etchmiadzin, D. Anghaght, A. Khachadourian, Matenadaran, each type	06.00
125.	W. Saroyan, USSR, full sheet of 50 stamps .60.00	126. W. Saroyan, USSR, corner block of four
127.	William Saroyan, USA, one full sheet of 50 stamps, in mint state.....	22.50
128.	William Saroyan, USA, four full sheets, 50 stamps per sheet, each sheet has plate number in different location, in mint state.....	85.00
129.	W. Saroyan, USA, plate block of four.....	02.00
130.	William Saroyan, USA-USSR, first day cover issued by Ararat Guild.....	15.00
131.	William Saroyan, USA-USSR, Balloon cover, Balloon Post Yerevan-Leninakan.....	35.00
132.	USSR, for Armenian earthquake victims, one full sheet, contains nine blocks of four (M).....	60.00
133.	USSR, for Armenian earthquake victims, FDC, Moscow cancellation, consists of three envelopes.....	08.00
134.	Republic of Cyprus, Armenian earthquake stamp first day cover (FDC).....	02.00

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146.	Nos. 130 to 135, set of six medals.....	30.00
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150.	Fresno Numismatic Society 45th anniversary (1946-91) medal "honoring Fresno's Armenian heritage" and displaying David of Sassoun statue sculpted by Varaz. 22.12 grams, 38 mm, gold plated copper.....	38.00
151.	Same as above but in silver, 31.91 gms, 38 mm.....	05.00
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154.	Key chain, Partsratsir-partsratsour, scouting.....	05.00
155.	Key chain, Boghos Nubar Pasha.....	05.00
156.	Key chain, Hopenutmen of Armenian General Benevolent Union.....	

Armenian Antiquities

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Numismatic Books

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N02.	BEDOUKIAN, Paul Z. <i>Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia</i> , London, 1978, 81 pp., 8 pls., cloth.....	25.00
N03.	--, <i>Coinage of the Artaxiads of Armenia</i> - Արտաշէսեան հարստութեան դրամները, Vienna, 1983, 52+36 pp., 8 pls., cloth, text in Armenian.....	60.00
N04.	--, <i>Armenian Coins and Medals</i> , New York, 1971, 24 pp., illus, card covers.....	02.00
N05.	--, <i>Coinage of Cilician Armenia</i> , New York, 1962, ANS NNM 147, 494 pp., 48 pls., card covers.....	100.00
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